FBIS DAILY REPORT
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OFFICIALS ARRIVE FOR ECONOMIC MEETING IN QUITO

Brazilian Foreign Minister Arrives

PY110015 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Upon arriving in Quito, Ecuador, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro said today that Brazil, which is the world's most indebted country, expects that the Latin American Economic Conference will sort out ideas to bolster hopes for the resumption of economic development. Minister Guerreiro stressed that the current economic crisis, if protracted, will drive Latin American countries -- especially Brazil, which is saddled with a debt of more than $90 billion -- into bankruptcy. The Latin American experts are about to reach a consensus on an initiative to jointly ask industrialized countries to cooperate in their countries' economic recovery reducing financial demands and facilitating foreign trade.

Cuban Delegation Welcomed

FL120144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today arrived in Quito to participate in the first minister-head of state level Latin American economic conference, which opens tomorrow in the Ecuadoran capital. The Cuban vice president was received by his Ecuadoran counterpart, Leon Roldos, Foreign Minister Luis Valencia, and others.

At the reception ceremony for the Cuban leader, Vice President Roldos expressed his satisfaction at welcoming Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and the Cuban delegation. He emphasized that the Quito conference can lead to Latin American commitments that will be carried out by regional groups and by the governments of our countries. The outlook is very interesting for Latin America and for all our peoples.

The Cuban delegation is also made up of Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister of state for economic cooperation, and other officials.

The conference will be opened tomorrow by President Osvaldo Hurtado at a ceremony in the National Congress Palace in the Ecuadoran capital.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN COURT OF JUSTICE -- The Andean Court of Justice, which will be headquartered in Quito, was installed Thursday. The Court is composed of Magistrates (Estuardo Hurtado Larrea), for Ecuador; (Luis Carlos Sachica), for Colombia; (Gonzalo Ortiz de Zevallos), for Peru; (Hugo Pope), for Bolivia; and (Guillermo Andueza), for Venezuela. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jan 84 PA]

PARAGUAYAN HEAD OF ALADI -- Montevideo, 2 Jan (AFP) -- Paraguayan representative Antonio Lopez Acosta will head the ALADI Representatives Committee during 1984. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2224 GMT 2 Jan 84 PY]

NEW CLAD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -- Panamanian Ana Matilde Brower de Dubois has been appointed executive secretary of the Latin American Development Administration Center [Centro Latinoamericano de Administracion para el Desarrollo -- CLAD], created by the Latin American and Caribbean governments to bolster efforts for modernizing and developing their public administrations. [Summary] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 9-A PA]

U.S. CONGRESSMEN MEET ALFONSIN, DISCUSS DEBT

PY111746 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] -- (MILL) -- A delegation of United States congressmen and US Ambassador Frank Ortiz met yesterday with President Raul Alfonsin, with Representative Claude Pepper (Democrat-Florida) saying afterwards he hoped Argentina's international creditors would "lighten the weight of interest (payments) and extend the payment" terms on Argentina's foreign debt.

The U.S. delegation later visited the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and spoke with CELS head Emilio Mignone, who stated that the group said it would suggest to President Ronald Reagan that the U.S. extradite any Argentine military men living in the U.S. and who are implicated in human rights abuses here.

After meeting with the President, Pepper, head of the Lower House Rules Committee, emphasized that more flexible repayment terms should be worked out since Argentina's "honour will assure that these debts are paid" and said a U.S. Treasury official will be arriving here in a few weeks to seek ways of refinancing Argentina's debt.

The octogenarian Pepper, a politician for over 50 years, told the HERALD that Alfonsin's human rights policy was also discussed during the meeting with both sides agreeing to "further the protection of human rights here and around the world."

House Representatives David Bonier, Antony Beilenson, Frank Harrison and Bruce Morrison -- all Democrats -- accompanied Pepper during the 45-minute meeting with the President.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET CHILEAN COUNTERPART

PY111815 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Argentine and Chilean delegations will meet with the papal mediation team on 23 January. The delegations will be headed by their corresponding foreign ministers. The purpose of the meeting will be to intensify the negotiations to settle the conflict. The meeting was confirmed in a commumique issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry this morning. Here is the communique:

The papal mediation team in the Argentine-Chilean dispute over the Beagle Channel has noticed in the past few months a significant rapprochement between the two parties, which should be conducive to a successful outcome.

Hence, on reiterating his wishes, His Holiness John Paul II deemed it appropriate to activate the final stage of the negotiations with the drafting of a final treaty that will be acceptable to both parties, that will yield positive results, and that will be based on the terms of his proposal.

The communique adds that the mediation office has called for a joint meeting on 23 January. The meeting, which will be presided over by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agustino Cassaroli along with the mediator, will be aimed at intensifying the negotiations for a successful solution to the dispute.

The communique concludes by stating that the two countries have consented to the meeting and that they have decided that in order to enhance its importance the delegations will be headed by their corresponding foreign ministers.

Meeting Termed 'Decisive'

PY111320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1045 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (NA) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today confirmed that a decisive meeting will take place in Rome next week to start a "conclusive phase" for the final drafting of an agreement with Chile over the Beagle Channel and asserted that he will "probably" travel to Rome to attend the meeting. The foreign minister made these remarks shortly before 0700, before leaving for Quito where he will attend the meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

Diplomatic sources asserted that a document through which Argentina and Chile will start the final phase of the negotiations over the Beagle Channel will be signed on 23 January.

FOREIGN MINISTER DANTE CAPUTO DEPARTS FOR QUITO

PY111255 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1025 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo left for Quito at 0705 today on a special flight which took off from the Aeroparque Military Base carrying the Argentine delegation to the meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America [CELA] to be held between 12 and 14 January.

Caputo was accompanied by Luis Domingo Mendiola, chief of the Foreign Ministry Cabinet, Adolfo Gass and Federico Storani, chairmen of the Foreign Relations Committees of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies respectively, and by Albino Gomez, Foreign Ministry press director.

DELEGATION ATTENDS ITU MEETING IN GENEVA

PY111425 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0454 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM) -- The World Administrative Radiocommunications Conference for the planning of decameter radio waves has opened in Geneva. A delegation of the Argentine Communications Secretariat headed by engineer Miguel Costa, director general of the Secretariat's Technical and Supervisory Department, is attending the conference.

The conference will analyze, among other topics, measures to improve the radioelectric spectrum and to use less power during the transmissions in order to reduce energy consumption. The conference, which was opened yesterday and will continue until 10 February, is sponsored by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The conference will also review the distribution of frequencies allocated to the ITU member countries,

BIGNONE HELD INCOMMUNICADO AT ARMY BASE

PY111705 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Former President Reynaldo Bignone was put under arrest and taken incommunicado to the Campo de Mayo Army base for detention last evening on the orders of Trial Judge Carlos Oliveri, who is handling an investigation into the disappearance in 1976 of two conscripts serving at the Military College, of which Bignone was the director at the time.

Bignone is on trial for "illegal detention, abuse of authority, breach of public official's duty, perjury and cover-up" in the case.

He appeared in court for four hours yesterday afternoon after a court of appeals confirmed Judge Oliveri's earlier ruling rejecting the request for exemption from prison filed in favour of the former President by his defence lawyer, former Justice Minister Jaime Lennon.

The two missing conscripts, Luis Garcia and Luis Steinberg, were members of the Communist Youth Federation.

In its ruling confirming Judge Oliveri's orders, the appeals court said the methods used at the Military College to fight subversion were "legally unorthodox."

Bignone has also been summoned to appear before San Martin Federal Judge Luis Cordoba today to testify on his alleged involvement in the abduction of scientist Alfredo Giorgi, a case in which a great many other officers, including Ramon Camps, Guillermo Suarez Mason, Federico Minicucci, and more recently, former Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy and the six members of the first two of the military juntas which ruled the country as from 1976, have been charged.

The former President had already been summoned twice, but failed to appear. Two weeks ago he pleaded that his wife was ill, but on Monday he did not excuse himself.

Judge Cordoba yesterday ordered that Bignone be taken to court by the police if he does not appear voluntarily, but technical problems arise from Judge Oliveri's orders that he be held incommunicado.

"I will decide," Oliveri said, "whether to authorize Bignone's trip to San Martin, but Judge Cordoba has not yet notified me of his request."

Former Military College conscripts Sergio Omar Garcia and Hugo Nestor Carballo told Judge Oliveri that they had been kidnapped and subjected to various sorts of pressure in and out of the institute while in service, adding that Bignone was well informed of these goings-on.

FALKLANDS PANEL SILENT ON EX-CHIEFS' COURT DATES

PY111335 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1138 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (NA) -- Colonel Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez, secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, confirmed today that Lieutenant Colonel Italo Piaggi and Commander Wilson Rosier Pedrozzo will be questioned in connection with the Malvinas case.

Gonzalez Ramirez did not specify the date on which former Commanders in Chief Leopoldo Galtieri, Jorge Anaya, and Basilio Lami Dozo will appear in court. Concerning the other former commanders in chief, he said that they "enjoy full freedom" and that the Supreme Council will decide on their cases "when it has a quorum."

Gonzalez Ramirez concluded by saying that he had learned "through the newspapers" of the appointment of the council members who will replace the military officers who excused themselves from participating in the prosecutions for repressive abuses.

BRAWL ERUPTS AS COLONEL TESTIFIES IN GIORGI CASE

PY111530 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM) -- Serious incidents broke out today in front of the San Martin Courthouse when some 20 individuals, allegedly Malvinas war veterans, started a real brawl as Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin was entering the courthouse to testify in the case of the disappearance of Alfredo Giorgi.

While the name of Seineldin, who is well known for his performance during the South Atlantic war, was being called, the young men attacked journalists assigned to the case verbally and physically, calling them liars, Marxists, and Yankees, among other things. The alleged Malvinas war veterans, while they were shouting Long live our homeland and Long live the Turk (referring to Seineldin), along with the former Army officer's guards, prevented journalists from approaching him for an interview.

Violence broke out in the tense atmosphere, blows and insults abounded, and several journalists fell to the ground in the melee while some photographers lost their cameras which were dropped on the sidewalk.

After a few minutes of confusion, during which Seineldin began testifying, everything was again quiet in front of Federal Court No 1 in San Martin, although it could not be ascertained for how long.

SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS MILITARY COURT DECISION

PY112259 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court has set aside an alleged subversive's sentence imposed by the Armed Forces Supreme Council. Moreover, the Supreme Court reasserted the principle that civilians cannot be tried by military courts. The Supreme Court decision thus annuls Roberto Antenor Gauna's sentence for illegal association and involvement in subversive activities. The Supreme Court also ordered an investigation into the charges raised by Gauna during his trial that he had been tortured. The Supreme Court noted that any legal justification that may have existed for subjecting civilians to military courts during the subversive period has disappeared with the enforcement of a state of rights which presupposes the enforcement of the law.

ARMED FORCES COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS REPORTED

PY111111 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (NA) -- The names of the three members of the Armed Forces Supreme Council were made known unofficially this afternoon. The council's first task will be to indict the members of the first three military juntas for the abuses committed in the struggle against subversion. This council will reportedly be made up of Generals Eros Juan Cazes and Emilio Fouret.

The third member will reportedly be Brigadier General Luis Maria Etchegoyen. Gen Cazes has concluded his term as a member of the council and was reportedly designated for another term. The other two generals will replace General Osvaldo Rene Azpitarte and Brigadier General Julio Gomez, who declined to conduct the indictment of the former commander ordered by the executive branch.

PRICE CONTROLS EXTENDED AFTER RECENT INCREASES

PY111740 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- The Government yesterday decided to extend the scope of its price controls to companies who have invoiced between $A 50 and $A 200 million during the past 12 months. It decrees that these firms must report to the Trade Secretariat within three days any price increases they have authorized since the present government took office. These firms must inform the Secretariat as from today of any modification in their sales and payments conditions.

The latest regulations extend the controls decreed as from December 12 since this had only involved firms which had reported their invoicing to be more than $A 200 million during the previous 12 months. Although Secretariat spokesmen said the measure was only for the purpose of obtaining information concerning any possible modification in sales prices, it is known that government officials are concerned about the fact there have been important hikes in a number of essential household commodities.

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT REPORTS ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY120117 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM) -- Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez has appeared before the Budget and Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies to report on the Argentine foreign debt and on the Central Bank's situation after the 1977-82 statistics were reviewed.

Garcia Vazquez reported that, during that period, the GNP [gross national product] declined by 3.8 percent; industrial activities registered a 24.1 percent reduction; investments decreased 28.9 percent; and industrial equipment utilization fell 52.3 percent.

The Budget and Finance Committee headed by Deputy Ruben Rabanal heard the Garcia Vazquez report, which included figures on the remittance of foreign currency abroad, citing $5.2 billion taken out by tourists between 1977 and 1982, and $10.7 billion sent abroad by Argentine residents.

Among the data presented by the Central Bank president, it is worth noting that payments on the foreign debt in 1982 alone required expenditures of $5.2 billion, and that $387 million in readily available funds were turned over to the constitutional government. The sum of $1,528,000,000 is registered as credit which cannot be readily used because it has been turned into cash vouchers which are difficult to verify.

Garcia Vazquez also reported that the government has set itself a 30 June deadline to come up with the exact amount of the foreign debt and to probe into its legitimacy and origin. As of 31 December 1982 the foreign debt amounted to $43,634,000,000.

Effective obligations contracted for 1983 were $21,413,000,000, but the effective obligations paid in 1982 were not determined. Debt payments for 1984 amount to $4,321,000,000; for 1985 they amount to $3,313,000,000; for 1986 they amount to $3,179,000,000; for 1987 they amount to $2,625,000,000; and for 1988 and following years the debt payments amount to $8,783,000,000.

1,500 STRIKING WORKERS MARCH ON LABOR MINISTRY

PY111710 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Jan 84 p 7

[Excerpt] (MLL-DYN-NA) -- Members of the Light and Power Workers' Union (Luz y Fuerza) walked off their jobs yesterday morning, and over 1,500 of the striking workers marched on the Labour Ministry to demand the reversal of its recent decision to call off planned elections in the union. The half-day strike, which affected the capital and Greater Buenos Aires, and protest march mark the Radical government's first major confrontation with labour.

Oscar Lescano, who leads the largest grouping within the 13,000-member strong federal capital branch of Luz y Fuerza, called the Ministry's decision "unjust and arbitrary." The Ministry suspended internal elections after a workers' group tied to the Radical-based Movement for Union Renovation (MNRS) charged the union's electoral board had been illegally designated.

MOLOTOV COCKTAILS REPORTEDLY USED IN CORDOBA

PY111350 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0035 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 10 Jan (DYN) -- Cordoba Province police today officially reported a number of arson cases which occurred last Saturday in the Crisol District. The police linked these events to "terrorist" activities and said that they are cause for "deep concern," it was reported.

The arson attacks took place last Saturday night at a private home, a car dealership, and the parking lot of a company manufacturing cigarettes. Apparently all three fires were started almost simultaneously with Molotov cocktails "which strongly supports the suspicion that they were caused by the same author (or authors)," officials said.

Attention was drawn to the fact that two of the attacks were perpetrated in the same district where a pool hall was operating until a few months ago. The pool hall was owned by Anibal Gordon, who is a fugitive from justice charged with membership in the terrorist Tripe A organization, it was reported.

BRIEFS

FORMER OFFICIAL REINSTATED -- The executive branch has reinstated Hugo Gobbi in the Argentine Foreign Ministry after his dismissal by the military regime in 1976. He has been appointed secretary for special affairs. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 10 Jan 84 PY]

SUPREME SOVIET'S KALIN PETITIONS CONGRESS

PY111345 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Ivan Kalin, has suggested to the president of the Bolivian Congress that the congress announce itself in favor of international peace, which is threatened by the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe.

A letter requesting this was delivered to Jaime Paz Zamora by Soviet Ambassador Arcadi Glujov, who paid a protocol visit to Ivan Kalin, who visited our country some months ago. The letter to Paz Zamora voiced the Soviet Union's great concern over the threat of a war with unpredictable consequences for the world, since U.S. foreign policy and the deployment of missiles in Western Europe threatens the equilibrium between the East and West blocs.

CONGRESS REFUSES TO MEDIATE IN DIALOGUE

PY120207 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The Senate has turned down a government invitation to participate in a dialogue attempting to pave the way for the national convergence that has been announced by President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

In a note sent to the president today, the Senate pointed out that because of the nature of the functions, privileges, and responsibilities vested in it by the Constitution in the context of interdependence among the powers of the state, it believes that the lofty intention which motivated President Siles Zuazo to seek a political convergence can be channeled with better prospects for success through direct dialogue with the heads of the political parties, without resorting to mediation by the legislative branch which, because of its nature, cannot serve as an intermediary between the executive branch and political or labor leaders.

In another passage, the Senate suggested that the president seek a direct understanding with the sectors possibly interested in the partriotic and constructive intention of his government, still counting on the support of this congressional body in order to succeed in this new effort to save the democratic process which was instituted on 10 October 1982 by resolution of the honorable national Congress.

The note also said that this is a good occasion to convey to the president the Senate's concern over the interdependence that should be maintained among the powers of the state. The indifference shown by the cabinet to the requests of the Senate in the exercise of its legitimate constitutional prerogatives is unfortunately causing delays in or absence of answers.

Finally, the Senate note to the president states that the lack of reciprocity on the part of the executive branch is eroding the good relations among the powers of the state and weakening the democratic system. Yet the Senators hope that the president, consistent with his public declarations, will take the necessary corrective measures in order to reestablish the best relations and coordination with legislative branch.

PS-1 REJECTS SILES' NATIONAL CONVERGENCE PROPOSAL

PY110045 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 10 Jan (AFP) -- The Socialist Party One (PS-1) today joined the majority of Bolivian political organizations in refusing to participate in the government of national convergence being proposed by Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

The PS-1, which was founded by the late Deputy Marcelo Quiroga Santacruz, noted that Siles' proposal is unfeasible, and it proposed the implementation of an immediate convergence of the people in answer to the government's position.

PAZ ZAMORA CLAIMS MIR STILL IN OPPOSITION

PY100139 Paris AFP in Spanish 0041 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jan (AFP) -- Bolivian Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora today reasserted here that his party, the Movement for the Revolutionary Left [MIR] will, as last year remain in the opposition. Talking to AFP, Paz Zamora stated that, this issue aside, his relations with President Hernan Siles Zuazo are personally, though not politically, good. Paz Zamora then termed positive the action of the national Congress in 1983, although he warned that this year the Congress, whose activities resumed today, should resort less to speeches and more to the analysis of national problems and to approving pending laws.

COB CONSIDERING 'DRASTIC MEASURES' AGAINST REGIME

PY101320 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Excerpt] According to Juan Lechin Oquendo, leader of the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], the possibility of adopting drastic measures in view of the government's failure to comply with its commitments is still possible.

The union leader pointed out that due to the absence of two ministers of state, yesterday's scheduled afternoon meeting with the economic team was not held. According to Lechin, the COB waited in vain for the ministers to appear and pointed out that there is no certainty whether the talks will be resumed since it will depend on the national workers meeting to be held today.

Demands Salary Increase

PY112000 Paris AFP in Spanish 1640 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jan (AFP) -- The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) has declared itself in permanent session in order to facilitate a high-level dialogue with the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, who is confronting the threat of a new labor conflict over his refusal to grant a new minimum escalator clause salary.

That decision was made at the latest national labor leaders meeting, at which representatives of some sectors demanded that a 72-hour nationwide work stoppage be declared and that COB national leaders go on a hunger strike.

A labor commission will try until Thursday to see President Siles to discuss with him the COB demands, especially a substantial change in the salary scale.

Labor spokesmen noted that, after the meeting with the government, the COB leadership will decide on what measures to adopt to pressure the government should it reject its demands that a minimum salary of approximately $300 at the official exchange rate with an escalator clause be granted immediately. The government says that such a salary increase cannot be granted because of Bolivia's critical economic situation. The current national minimum salary stands at 30,000 pesos per month ($60), and it is pegged to cost of living increases over 6-month periods.

GARCIA MEZA ASSOCIATES EXPELLED FROM ARMED FORCES

PY111715 Paris AFP in Spanish 1413 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jan (AFP) -- It was learned today that Colonel Arturo Doria Medina and Colonel Alberto Gribowsky, two of former president Luis Garcia Meza's (1980-1981) closest aides, have been discharged, according to the Armed Forces order of assignments.

Doria Medina was commander of the Tarapaca Armored Regiment, where he took part in the harsh repression of the people's movement against General Alberto Natusch Busch's coup in 1979. Gribowsky was commander of the Ingavi Regiment (presidential escort). They have both been charged with staining the dignity of the Armed Forces.

The military order also discharges Faustino Rico Toro, former commander of the Military College, who is charged with desertion; Garcia Meza's defense minister, General Armando Reyes Villa; his finance minister, Colonel Javier Alcorez Melgarejo; and his former director of the National Council for the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, Colonel Raul Gonzalez Ferry.

Moreover, Colonel Gary Prado Salmon has been confirmed in the post or commander of the Army Eighth Division stationed in Santa Cruz, 1,000 km west of here, while General Mario Oxa Bustos has been appointed the new defense secretary.

EL DIARIO CONCERNED BY COMMUNIST 'INFILTRATION'

PY070220 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Communism Is Advancing in Bolivia"]

[Text] There can be no doubt about it, there are guerrilla preparations in our country. This was reported by a Bolivian Navy assistant found to be involved in such preparations. This long, revealing report undoubtedly has internal and external implications.

Foreigners are training guerrilla groups, whose members are deceitfully recruited, so that they cannot escape the trap into which they were lured, fearful of the threats against themselves and their families. This is a typical Communist procedure. Foreign intervention in our country's political life, from whatever origin, must be the object of concern, particularly when sponsored by powers seeking to place the nation under their domination.

Another implication of the information provided by the Navy assistant is that high-ranking government officials are involved in this delicate matter. A former minister, a presidential adviser, a Communist deputy, and other high-ranking officials are said to be involved. Apparently, their involvement is not the product of someone's imagination, because the Navy assistant mentioned places, dates, and meetings, and provided full details. All this leads to the conclusion that there are ultraleftists within the government, that they are at the service of Cuba, and that they want to place Bolivia under Soviet influence.

There has been clear financial support, particularly now that a few dollars is enough to maintain agents and their activities. This was confirmed by the Navy assistant and by the Communist deputy himself, who once said that they themselves, the congressmen, receive monthly payments "from PCB [Bolivian Community Party] funds."

The San Andres University (UMSA) is perhaps the most active center of the campaign, not only because the recruiting of youth is easier there but because university officials have habitually cooperated with this kind of activity. And this is not beginning now; in 1970, when guerrillas appeared in Teoponte, the UMSA was under the same dean. The written reports left by the guerrillas who died in that gold-rich area revealed that they had the support of the same persons who are again holding executive posts at the university.

An immediate objective of communism is the infiltration of the Armed Forces, because the communists know very well that the Armed Forces are a barrier to ultraleftist ambitions. As for the government, there is no doubt that it has been infiltrated by communists, who are seeking to profit by this situation to become the owners of Bolivia.

BRIEFS

FRENCH MULTIMILLION LOAN -- Transportation and Communications Minister Fernando Poppe Martinez and French Ambassador Jean-Clause Guisset signed an agreement on 11 January for the supply of 54 French-made buses to the National Bus Transportation Enterprise. The agreement, valued at Fr 50 million, covers, in addition to the buses, medical equipment for the Miraflores Military Hospital. Repayment terms for this loan are 30 years, with a yearly interest rate of 3 percent. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jan 84 PY]

MINERAL EXPORTS -- The Mining and Metallurgy Ministry has officially reported that mineral and metal exports totaled $221.6 million from January to July 1983. [Excerpt] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Jan 84 p 7 PY]

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1983 -- According to authorities of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YFPB] Bolivia's production of crude and condensated oil during January-November 1983 amounted to more than 7 million barrels. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 84 PY]

BEAGLE ENVOY SAYS CONDITIONS EXIST FOR AGREEMENT

PY112250 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Colonel Ernesto Videla, chief of the Chilean delegation at the papal mediation, has stated that we have not achieved a final agreement with Argentina. We have the proper conditions to carry out negotiations which will lead to a final resolution.

Videla noted that it is important that the two governments have decided to agree to hold negotiations with the objective of solving the southern border dispute, but he added that he does not wish to create false expectations.

[Begin Videla recording] What we have now is a significant rapprochement between the two parties. But this does not mean that we have achieved a final agreement with Argentina. We simply have the proper conditions to hold negotiations thus reactivating the process that will lead to a final resolution; that is, we are going to negotiate a final treaty with Argentina. [end recording]

Videla added that in this manner we will be acting in keeping with His Holiness' aspiration of seeking a prompt resolution to the dispute. He said that the two countries have been holding negotiations over the past 2 months. He added: The pope has seen that these negotiations have been quite significant because the parties involved may now enter a conclusive stage of the process. Videla noted that the peace treaty is part of the general treaty which it is hoped will be signed soon.

Videla noted that we will negotiate on the basis of the proposal submitted by the pope. We hope that these negotiations will lead to a prompt agreement. He also said that the progress that has been achieved represents the good will of the two countries.

[Begin Videla recording] We believe that there is good will on both sides to achieve a prompt solution to the dispute. [end recording]

Videla said that he hoped that the solution will be achieved as soon as possible.

The Chilean and Argentine foreign ministers will leave for Rome on 23 January. They will be accompanied by the respective national delegations to the mediation. Among the members of the Chilean delegation is the former Chilean ambassador to the mediation, Ambassador Enrique Bernstein.

Videla noted that it is very likely that the pope will visit Chile and Argentina once the final treaty is signed, but he added that it will be up to the pope to announce this decision.

GENERAL SAYS PINOCHET MAY PROVOKE CIVIL WAR

PY120125 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1617 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Madrid, 11 Jan (EFE) -- According to Chilean General Gustavo Leigh, Chile may become immersed in a civil war because "Pinochet has no intention of evaluating or discussing national issues. He merely resolves and supports his measures by force."

During an interview with the Spanish weekly INTERVIU, Leigh notes that "we must exhaust all possibilities of dialogue despite the fact that the dialogue has failed in the last 10 years, which unfortunately is the period that Pinochet has been in power."

Leigh, who actively participated in the coup d'etat that ousted President Salvador Allende, led the bombing of the La Moneda government palace, and later declared himself an outright enemy of President Pinochet, adds that "unfortunately there will be no peaceful transition in Chile."

Gen Leigh notes that "if there were another military officer with whom to talk, perhaps things would have been different, but with an obstinate general like Pinochet, who only knows how to give orders...", and he adds that within the present military junta "there is no commander that can oppose him."

Leigh, who notes that Pinochet "has been undergoing strict psychiatric treatment," adds that if people study Pinochet during his television appearances and his reactions to protest demonstrations, "one must arrive at the conclusion that he does not look sane, he does not look normal."

RIGHTS GROUP REPORTS ON 1983 BANISHMENTS

PY111440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1202 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 11 Jan (EFE) -- The Chilean Human Rights Commission today reported that a total of 127 people were banished to various parts of the country during 1983. The main leaders of the commission stated at a press conference that 125 of the 127 people were sentenced by the administration and only 2 of them by the courts. During the press conference, four banished people conveyed their personal experiences.

The Chilean Human Rights Commission is a private organization headed by former Christian Democratic Justice Minister Jaime Castillo Velasco, who recently returned from exile in Venezuela.

RADICAL DEMOCRATS ELECT POLITICAL COMMISSION

PY112230 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The political commission of the Radical Democratic Party was elected last night in a late meeting chaired by the Radical Democratic Party leader, Angel (Savovich). Lawyer Clodomiro Bravo (Michell), a former member of the Chamber of Deputies Legislative, Constitutional, and Judicial Commission, was elected president of the party's political commission.

The other members of the Radical Democratic Party political commission are: Julio Duran (Hueman), Jorge Ovalle, Jaime (Tormo), Marcelo Ruiz Solar; Claudio Morales, Cesar Ercilla, Pablo Casas; German Becker, Gustavo (?Llares), Enrique (Raventos), and Anibal Peralta Fuentes.

This commission must submit within a week a study of the national political situation to the Radical Democratic Party board.

SEGUEL, ESTIVALES REELECTED TO UNION BOARD

PY112229 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Relay by Silvia (Yermani)]

[Excerpt] Rodolfo Seguel and Hugo Estivales have been reelected national advisers of the Copper Workers Confederation [CTC] board. There are only two new faces among the members of the CTC board, which is made up of 15 members. They are advisers (Juan Marambio) of the El Teniente mine and (Carlos Valdivia) of the Andina mine. The other members of the board have been reelected.

All but two members of the CTC board have thus been reelected. The two new members are (Carlos Valdivia) and (Juan Marambio) of the Andina and El Teniente mines respectively. Those who were not reelected are (Jose Perez) of the Andina mine and (Manuel Labarca) of El Teniente Mine.

The 15 members of the board will be entrusted with appointing the CTC's president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and director.

ALLEGED 'MARXIST TERRORISTS' RAID RADIO STATION

PY111300 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Marxist terrorists raided Radio Santiago of Santiago last night and aired a 3-minute subversive message after overpowering personnel. The group, which was made up of five men and a woman who covered their faces with handkerchiefs, identified itself as the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front.

The subversive criminals overpowered the station's porter with a submachine gun and forced three employees, including journalist Francisco (Villagran) to enter a bathroom where the terrorists locked them up. The ruffians threatened the employees with detonating some explosive devices they had allegedly planted inside the building.

After the 3-minute recorded message had been aired, radio technicians interrupted the transmission.

ECONOMIST APPOINTED NEW AGRICULTURE MINISTER

PA100426 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Ecuadoran President Oswaldo Hurtado has appointed economist Fausto Jordan as the new agriculture minister. The new minister will take office at the Government House in just a few minutes. Jordan, who has no political affiliations, was appointed director of the Secretariat for Full Rural Development in July 1981. He graduated from the Central University of Ecuador and has attended courses in Chile, Israel, and the United States.

ESMERALDAS POLITICAL EVENT MARRED BY VIOLENCE

PA111636 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Jan 84

[By correspondent Manuel Sarmiento Meraz]

[Text] The welcome offered by the people of Esmeraldas to Febres Cordero and Penaherrera Padilla, who visited this province today, ended some 65 minutes ago amidst an intense shootout. All morning vehicles with loudspeakers invited the people to reject the presence of the National Reconstruction Front representatives, and just before noon at a corner of Central Park, members of the Broad Front of the Left [FADI] and of the Democratic People's Movement [MPD] burned tires, causing unrest.

At approximately 1500 groups of National Reconstruction Front sympathizers began arriving from all over the province. A large platform was erected at the corner of Mejia and Bolivar Streets, and just before 1600 Leon Febres Cordero, Blasco Penaherrera Padilla, Camilo Gallegos Dominguez, Mauricio Gandara, and other members of an entourage arrived. During speeches by candidates to provincial posts, groups of counterdemonstrators harassed the approximately 5,000 persons at the ceremonies. Shots and tear gas disrupted but did not scare the followers of Febres Cordero and Penaherrera Padilla, who were visiting Esmeraldas.

In his speech, Dr Blasco Penaherrera Padilla rejected the antidemocratic attitude of the counterdemonstrators, saying that when the people of Esmeraldas stand the earth trembles and cowards kneel. In his speech, Leon Febres Cordero openly alluded to the government, saying that after starving them to death for the past 4 years, it is now trying to fill their stomachs with words of participative democracy, but a few ill-intentioned persons are trying to prevent us from using and participating in this democracy.

When Leon Febres Cordero ended his speech and prepared to return to the capital, a group of counterdemonstrators a block away standing on both sides of Salinas Street began shooting, forcing the motorcade to stop. Several persons got out of the vehicles, and the shooting intensified. A group of the counterdemonstrators fled toward houses on the shores of the Esmeraldas River, pursued by Febres Cordero's followers. After an intense shootout on the corner of Salinas and Bolivar Streets, the motorcade continued. The results of this incident are still unknown. The police arrived after it had already ended and the crowd was discussing and condemning the incident.

At approximately 1715 the motorcade continued on to Quito. The police have not yet reported any significant news.

PARTY LEADER WANTS ARMY SEPARATED FROM POLITICS

PY112306 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Jan 84 p 10

[Text] After meeting with U.S. Embassy officials, Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader Doctor Hermes Rafael Saguier said that "democracy is not compatible with the current Armed Forces' leadership, because generals on active duty live a luxurious life -- they and their children live in princely houses as if they were U.S. oil men. I call upon them to resign and to give way to officers who are not tied to private companies and who can devote more time to military affairs."

Saguier, who went to the U.S. Embassy to express thanks "for the attitude that U.S. diplomats adopted" when he was arrested and expelled from the country in 1982, explained that he was not acting on behalf either of his party or of the National Accord. He met with Deputy Chief of Mission James Ford Cooper and with John Leonard, the embassy first secretary.

"I believe that the attitude of the president, who has kept some specific generals in major command posts for almost 20 years, implies that no other officers qualify to run the Army," Saguier noted. He added that, in his opinion, there are many officers who qualify for these posts, "to which young officers should be assigned."

Saguier stressed that the democratization process cannot and must not end with the return of exiles. "The changes in the Paraguayan situation will not take any regional or world power by surprise, as was reportedly the case of changes in other nations. The Nicaraguan dictator Somoza was given too much rope and with this rope he hanged Chamorro, the democratic opposition, and the National Guard," he stressed.

"That is why we must try to separate the Army leadership from politics, because this government will undoubtedly be defeated in the first free elections in our country. Therefore, for the sake of the military institution, the political future of the government must be separated from that of the Armed Forces, which is regarded as a valuable institution that is deeply appreciated by the people," Saguier remarked.

He also said that the United States favors the return of exiles and the democratization process in the region.

Saguier pointed out that "the voice of Stroessnerism" [meaning "The Voice of the Colorado Party," a radio program] said that they would not yield out of weakness. "I would like to know what they mean by weakness. I don't believe that handing power over to the winner of free elections can be regarded as weakness. Respecting the rights of political opponents is not a sign of weakness but, rather, of strength. But I believe that this government is politically weak because it has to resort to the state of siege and to other repressive practices," Saguier concluded.

STUDENTS INJURED, DETAINED IN CLASHES WITH POLICE

PY121206 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0313 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 11 Jan (EFE) -- A spokesman for the Federation of Peruvian Students (FEP) has reported that 25 university students were injured and over 100 others detained during violent incidents in Lima today.

The incidents occurred in various parts of downtown Lima when police stopped students trying to gather in Armas and San Martin Squares. Students from various universities protesting the recently enacted university law, which they consider "antidemocratic and elitist," were planning to hold a march in San Martin Square. It is believed that approximately 20,000 students of the universities of San Marcos, Villareal, and Engineering were involved in the incidents.

Police used clubs, water cannons, and tear gas to disperse the students, who reacted by throwing stones at them. Most of the injured students had head, leg and arm injuries from police clubs and tear gas. The FEP spokesman said that leaders of various universities were arrested, and he scored "the violent repression against the students." The police have not yet released an official communique on the incidents.

CAR CARRYING UNMARKED ARMS INTERCEPTED

PY100222 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Chilclayo, 29 Dec -- The local police have seized arms bearing no factory markings or serial numbers, plus $5 million (some 12.3 billion soles) from two individuals, one who first identified himself as an Argentine citizen and later as a Chilean, and the other who said he was Peruvian.

Both were arrested on 22 December at the police control post when the title to the Volkswagen they were driving did not match their identity documents. Because of their suspicious attitudes, the police submitted them to intensive on the spot questioning, which is now continuing in Lima where they are under custody.

The Peruvian driver, Urbano Cordova Hinostroza, said that he was paid 700,000 soles for taking Jorge Sergio Tapia Arraya from Lima to Quito, where they were due to arrive on 24 December.

The police doubted that such a high sum was paid just to transport a person to Ecuador, and so they ordered a search of the vehicle at a car repair shop.

Five 9-mm machineguns, 6 hand grenades, a package of high-grade explosives, 1,000 rounds of ammunition, and $5 million were found camouflaged by gummed paper.

To determine if the detainees had any terrorist connections, they were transported along with the vehicle by plane to Lima, where the investigation is continuing.

Tapia Arraya, 32, who said he was born in Chile and that he worked in a decorations shop in Lima, had an Argentine passport under the name of Oscar Roberto Martinez Jimenez. He also said that he belonged to the "Chilean Resistance," and that the arms were to have been delivered to a woman by the name of Rosaura in Quito, Ecuador.

MINISTER ON PROPOSED U.S. TAX ON STEEL IMPORTS

PA112236 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Jan 84 pp 1A, 8A

[By Antonio Garza Morales]

[Excerpts] Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacan, 6 Jan -- Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industry, has told EXCELSIOR that if the United States imposes a 30-percent tax on Mexican steel, it "would be an attack on the nation's steel industry."

Labastida Ochoa was surprised at this protectionist attitude taken by U.S. steel officials, considering that the steel Mexico sold to the United States in 1983 was only 0.6 percent of the total that it imported.

Mexican officials hope that Congress will not approve this measure, which would immediately hurt Mexico, although afterward it could find other markets.

SEPULVEDA AMOR DISCUSSES L.A. ECONOMICS

FL111921 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1753 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today said that products from developing countries must enter the markets of industrialized nations in order to obtain foreign exchange.

Moments before departing from Quito, Ecuador, where the Latin American Economic Conference is being held, the foreign secretary noted that, through trade, foreign capital will become available in order to alleviate the financial situation of the governments of the region without having to resort to indebtedness. He said that investment and jobs could be promoted in Latin American countries in this way.

For this reason, he said, trade will be one of the main topics to be discussed at this meeting, which will end on 14 January and be attended by five chiefs of state, as well as foreign ministers and vice presidents of the Latin American region. The meeting is a sign of the concern to find mechanisms for inter-American cooperation and successfully to put a stop to the economic crisis in Latin America, he stressed.

Sepulveda Amor emphasized that Mexico's stand is that cooperation among Latin American countries must be strengthened, because this is the right moment to boost institutions for inter-American cooperation.

The Mexican foreign secretary stated that another issue to be analyzed at this conference will be that the IMF should give its financial support opportunely and not when a crisis has already emerged.

In addition, he stated that, in view of a lack of visits [as received], a barter system among Latin American countries will be established in order to further strengthen aid among the nations of the area.

In conclusion, he ruled out the possibility that Latin American governments will negotiate their debt jointly because, he said, each country will have to liquidate its debt depending on the foreign exchange it has.

DE LA MADRID TO MAKE WORKING VISIT TO TAXCO

FL112204 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2010 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Taxco, Gro, 11 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- President Miguel de la Madrid will make a working visit to this city next Friday to study the current situations in the tourism, mining, and handicraft industries, it has been announced by Municipal President Jose Fernando Benitez Lopez. He pointed out that during the visit, the chief executive will propose the inclusion of this city in the Critical Urban Areas Program.

COLUMNIST ANALYZES LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES

PA091600 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 7

["Political Repertory" column by Abraham Garcia Ibarra: "The Electoral Channel, Still Valid"]

[Excerpts] If the Workers Socialist Party [PST] was originally conceived -- this was the way political observers saw it -- as a party to replace the Popular Socialist Party [PPS], the electoral victories it saw in the 1983 local elections seem to confirm this belief.

The most effective proof of the PST's relative advance in the electoral field was undoubtedly the victory in Ensenada, Baja California, our country's largest municipality.

There were those who tried to downplay the PST's gains in this specific case because the candidate to the mayor's office was a former member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] who had already been president of Ensenada municipality, a post he held with a magnificent record.

On the other hand, the analysis was made on the premise that after the experiences in San Luis Potosi, Guanajuato, Chihuahua, and Durango, where the opposition of the right obtained smashing victories which seemed to indicate that the system was heading toward an undesirable bipartisanism, the intention of the governing power was to rearrange the balance of local power.

Independent of the Ensenada PST candidate's personal background and of the need to dismantle bipartisan trends, the truth is that the PST proved its capacity for organization.

But one swallow does not make a summer. If the PST can show legitimate, even if only modest, gains in the annual electoral balance -- in the overall results -- it will be evident that, realistically, the party is very far from becoming a consistent alternative for the socialist left.

The Unified Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] and Its Cohorts

With a Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT] touched by adventurism, a PPS ideologically consistent but operationally poor, and a PST moved by opportunism, the most deplorable case of dispersion and inconsistency in the Mexican left at the moment is the PSUM.

The PSUM is the best example of a poor union of the most individualistic communists on earth. If it is true that each man has his own way of thinking, then it can be said that each member of the PSUM is doing his own thinking. In addition to the lack of a serious understanding with other leftist parties, the PSUM has not even been able to strengthen agreement among its groups and supposedly unified movements.

Two years after the disintegration of the Mexican Communist Party, the PSUM is adrift. It has not obtained a solid consensus to establish an ideological platform, and its organizational budget is shaky. Its temporary allies during the 1982 general elections have left, and those still remaining are ready to desert in the next 24 hours. In fact, some have already done so.

The PSUM was the party most identified with encouraging -- to describe this as leading would be to increase its irresponsibilities -- the most intense movements in the social-political struggle in 1984. We don't know how many victories the PSUM leaders can honestly take credit for in that field, or if they are capable of separating them from what many view as Pyrrhic victories. When events are viewed with that rare quality called wisdom, few would hesitate to state that the movements including the PSUM's presence were the ones defeated.

In order to be everywhere at once -- whether it was deemed officially or unofficially -- the PSUM sacrificed all principles of quality and serenity in participating in movements in universities, some unions, and peasant and Indian organizations. In many of those actions, many PSUM members acted as perfect autonomists, and if there were any agreements or instructions, they were either issued without any real authority from the leadership or were atrociously interpreted in the specific field of action. In any case, the result was the same. The PSUM's advances in the social struggle were as meager as in the electoral field.

The Party of the Lowland

After its divided participation in the 1982 presidential campaign -- caused by some groups' preference for candidate Ignacio Burgoa Orihuela -- the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM] -- to whose treasury some current leaders of the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, such as Emilio Goicoechea Luna, originally contributed -- has been defining itself as a party of the lowland. After some partial successes in San Luis Potosi in alliance with the PAN [National Action Party] and other successes on its own in Guanajuato and Jalisco and especially in northern Mexico, the PDM has not been able to improve its electoral position. Its response to the popular rejection in those elections has been an attempt to return to violence, as occurred not long ago in Tlaxcala and in recent days in Aguascalientes and Calvillo.

The Christian Democrats

The party that seems to have assured its survival as a second electoral force in 1985 is the PAN, which strengthened that position in 1983 when it doubled -- to a little over 500 -- the number of elected officials in the Congress of the Union, the municipal governments, and the local legislators.

The electoral activity in some way concealed the struggle within PAN for the party leadership, which in accordance with its bylaws will continue in office until February, and the internal conflict over its affiliation with the Christian Democratic International.

A more visible characteristic of the PAN's participation in the 1983 elections was its barefaced alliance with business, the political clergy, and U.S. imperialist agents. This aspect will probably be one of the most decisive in future definitions of the PAN, starting with the election of its leadership bodies in a few weeks and in the context not only of its association with Christian Democracy but also with Ronald Reagan's project to "export democratic values" which, in Mexico's case, considers the PAN foremost, as was learned in the spring of 1984.

SPAIN'S MORAN, OFFICIALS DISCUSS CONTADORA

PA111732 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Unidentified correspondent's report over video -- recorded]

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran arrived in this capital today from Costa Rica for an official 3-hour visit. The visiting minister was received at General Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport by Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega Duran and several officials of the Spanish Embassy in Panama. The Spanish minister and his party went to the Holiday Inn Hotel in Tocumen, where President Ricardo de la Espriella awaited him with Government and Justice Minister Dr Carlos Ozores Typaldos and Presidency Minister Mario de Diego.

The president of the Republic and Ministers Ozores Typaldos, De Diego, and Ortega Duran held a 2-hour luncheon meeting with the Spanish foreign minister, during which the visitor heard reports on developments at the last meeting between the Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers, which was held in this city last weekend.

During his tour of three Latin American countries -- Cuba, Costa Rica, and Panama -- the Spanish foreign minister reiterated his government's concern over the Central American crisis. Moran stressed the support that the Spanish Government, led by Felipe Gonzalez, has given to the Contadora Group's peace initiative, as well as the need for specific agreements to be developed. Moran maintained that the region needs greater economic development, since the roots of the conflict lie within the social and political structures of the area countries.

The Spanish minister added that there are both hopes and positive factors to help overcome the Central American crisis through agreements of principles about the norms for executing the commitments established in the Document of Objectives for achieving peace in the area.

Moran, who left for Madrid this afternoon, told the press briefly about his trips to Cuba, Costa Rica, and Panama: [Begin recording] My visit to Panama was very brief, but it has been perhaps one of the most interesting. We maintain very good bilateral relations with Costa Rica. We signed a complementary cooperation agreement there. As for Cuba, the visit allowed me to learn the views of both Commander Castro and the Cuban Government. [end recording]

MAN IMMOLATES HIMSELF TO PROTEST U.S. ACTIONS

PA111520 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jan 84 p 1-A

[Article by Vladimir Sandoval]

[Text] A Panamanian citizen yesterday afternoon set himself on fire in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest the U.S. Government's constant violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and its intervention in Central America, the permanent duty station at the Santo Tomas Hospital emergency room has reported.

Rolando Alberto Perez Palomino, a 27-year-old Panamanian bearing Cedula No 8-469-423, poured gasoline over his body in Anayansi Park in front of the U.S. Embassy on Balboa Avenue and set himself on fire. He ran into the embassy gardens after breaking through security.

Perez Palomino, who was given first aid by the security units of the U.S. Embassy and members of the Panamanian Red Cross, had third degree burns over 100 percent of his body and was later transferred to the Santo Tomas Hospital, where he is hovering between life and death in the recovery room.

The severely burned Perez kept repeating in a very low voice the phrases, "I love my people" and "Long live 9 January." He also said he was protesting U.S. intervention in Central America and the violation of the canal treaties.

This is apparently the first such incident in Latin America. Another Panamanian, journalist Leopoldo Aragon Escalona, set himself on fire in Stockholm, Sweden, to protest the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Dr Victor Grimaldo, in charge of the recovery room, told LA PRENSA that Rolando Alberto Perez Palomino is completely burned and had to be given several blood transfusions due to the dehydration caused by the burns. Seven doctors who were treating him last night were doing everything possible to save his life, but his current condition does not leave much hope for recovery.

So far, only a sister of Perez Palomino has gone to the Santo Tomas Hospital to learn of his condition. She left without making a statement. Journalists have been unable to clarify whether Perez Palomino was of any specific ideology or party affiliation, although his relatives have been located by the authorities investigating the case.

Dies From Burns

PA111745 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Panama, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Rolando Perez Palomino, who yesterday immolated himself bonze-style in front of the U.S. Embassy in this capital, died this morning, according to a source at the Santo Tomas Hospital.

According to witnesses, after dousing himself with gasoline and setting himself on fire, Perez Palomino, 27, ran up to the U.S. Embassy gardens from where he was taken for first aid treatment. Perez Palomino suffered third degree burns over 100 percent of his body, according to the doctors who treated him, and was given several blood transfusions in an effort to save him.

Apparently Perez Palomino, who is not known to be of any political leaning, was protesting U.S. intervention in Central America and nonfulfillment on the part of the United States of the new Panama Canal treaties.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS ASYLUM TO BASQUE TERRORISTS

PA112124 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1929 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- "The Panamanian Government, in an act of cooperation with the Governments of Spain and France," will accept in Panamanian territory six or seven Basque terrorists who have been expelled from France, official sources disclosed here today.

The Panamanian authorities will be keeping a "close watch" on these terrorists, who will later leave for another location, the same sources indicated. The sources did not say how long they will stay or the exact place to which they will be sent.

Panama wants to serve as a bridge, but this action should not be interpreted as meaning that its territory will be a "sanctuary for terrorists," the sources added. They also said this action should not be seen as an unfriendly one toward the Spanish people.

COSTA RICA

PVP'S FERRETO OUSTED; MORA SEEKS RESTITUTION

PA111644 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto Segura, the current Popular Vanguard Party, PVP, parliamentary chief and secretary of the party's Executive Committee, has been removed from both posts. He has appealed the decision and refrained from making statements to the press.

This measure is another step in the Communist Party's internal reorganization, which is standard procedure according to top leaders. PVP leader Manuel Mora Valverde was recently removed from his post as secretary general, a move Ferreto supported. According to communist sources, these measures have been taken to maintain party unity.

The decision to remove Ferreto Segura from his positions was made after consulting rank and file members at the district, cantonal, and national assemblies. Francisco Gamboa, director of the weekly newspaper LIBERTAD, was replaced as the Executive Committee's treasurer.

Last night Manuel Mora Valverde was feted in San Jose by his followers, who marched through several streets chanting slogans supporting the national assembly's decision, while the veteran communist leader called for unity, although a few minutes before he had severely criticized those who had supported his removal.

The march has been considered an act of vindication. In his speech, Manuel Mora was clear in pointing out that there is a crisis within the PVP, caused by discrepancies resulting from party mamagement and differences of opinion within the party's leadership regarding the methods to be used to gain power in the country, according to PVP principles.

Humberto Vargas Carbonell, Arnoldo Ferreto, and other leaders who are considered promoters of the schism within the party were not present at the demonstration.

One of the speakers at the event said that youth and district organizations support Manuel Mora Valverde and will convoke a special congress to reinstate him as secretary general. It was also announced that a new list of PVP members has been filed at the Civil Registry by the leaders who will promote the return of Manuel Mora. Some members said that those who replaced Manuel Mora made a great mistake by not consulting the rank and file.

During his speech before hundreds of PVP followers, Mora admitted that, particularly recently, there have been problems within the party that have led to personal frictions, which actually stem from differences of opinion regarding the party's line. Mora added that his adversaries took advantage of the situation to spread their venom, especially in some of the party's directorates. He stressed, however, that a high percentage of the rank and file are free of this venom.

Ferreto: Last Assembly 'Fraud'

PA111755 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto of the Popular Vanguard Party [PVP] of Costa Rica said that the assembly that appointed the new members of the Central Committee is a fraud.

He noted that through maneuvers supported by the party's legal adviser, Fournier [not further identified], the assembly certified the appointment of new members to the Central Committee, who, according to Ferreto, were not even registered with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Ferreto noted that the supposed convocation of meetings at canton and district levels existed only in the pages of protocol. Moreover, he said, there is no mention of who convoked the assembly. He said this was to be expected, because at the time Manuel Mora was absent, and the two other members of the Executive Committee were opposed to the maneuver. He explained that if the certification did not include the name of the president of the Central Committee, then nobody was authorized to convoke a general assembly.

Ferreto accused the press of spreading misinformation in connection with his replacement as executive secretary of the party, noting that the information is confusing because there is no mention of it being a party electoral decision. He noted that nobody has questioned his position as secretary of the Central Committee.

Ferreto said he plans to submit documented proof of alleged anomalies of the past general assembly, the most important being the possession of the party's minute book. He said that presenting the certification and later declaring that the supposed 25 district delegates had asked for the assembly's convocation were an attempt to take party members by surprise. He noted that this was a technical error, since only the president of the Executive Committee can convoke a general assembly.

EL SALVADOR

CONTADORA AGREEMENT SEEN AS POLITICAL VICTORY

PA111920 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1815 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Report issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, date not given -- read by unidentified COPREFA spokesman]

[Text] Signifying a political victory for El Salvador and new defeat for the FMLN, the meeting of the five Central American foreign ministers and the Contadora Group representatives ended on Sunday in Panama City. The five Central American governments, including the Nicaraguan regime, agreed to adopt a number of principles for immediate implementation. The following stand out as the most important:

1. The identification and eradication of all forms of support, promotion, financing, or tolerance of irregular forces or groups seeking to destabilize Central American countries.

2. Identification and eradication of irregular forces or groups that from or through the territory of a Central American state participate in destabilizing actions against another government of the region.

3. Locating of areas, routes, and means used for the illegal intraregional and extraregional traffic or weapons, in order to eliminate such traffic.

These three agreements are a crushing political defeat for the FMLN, because they force the five countries of the area, including Nicaragua, to suppress the vandalistic action of the territorist battalion that operates in El Salvador, as COPREFA has previously stated. Other agreements adopted at the Panama meeting signify overwhelming support for the democratization and pacification of the Salvadoran Government.

In this regard, the following points stand out:

A. Promotion of national reconciliation on the basis of justice, freedom, and democracy.

B. Setting of an electoral calendar and adoption of the measures that will guarantee the participation of the political parties under equal conditions.

C. Guarantees for the full respect for human rights.

All these agreements are included in the government's political program, the Apaneca Pact, and they have been fulfilled step by step with concrete actions. The agreements undoubtedly signify a tribute to the Salvadoran people who with great hope see that the day of peace and democracy is drawing near for El Salvador.

Commentary Lauds Agreement

PA112033 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The recent meeting of the five Central American foreign ministers under the sponsorship of the Contadora Group has resulted in an agreement that specifies measures to benefit peace in the area. This news has filled with enthusiasm the millions of Central Americans who view daily the worsening violence that draws us even closer to large-scale conflict.

The document includes very valuable points which reflect interest in achieving an agreement for peace and harmony among the area's countries. However, they will be even more valuable if the measures are really applied, because it costs nothing to sign a document that will never be implemented.

MAGANA'S SOLUTION TO DEATH SQUADS CRITICIZED

PA112022 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1815 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Station editorial: "President Magana and the Death Squads"]

[Text] A U.S. news agency report datelined New York refers to Salvadoran provisional President Alvaro Magana's statements to the weekly NEWSWEEK. The main topic of the president's comments was the death squads, a subject that is difficult to handle inside the country.

The provisional president's sincerity is surprising. He literally placed his finger on the sore, he called things by their proper name. We are pleased that he did so, even though we don't agree with the solution to the problem.

He made the relationship between the death squads and the security forces perfectly clear. President Magana stated that most of the people who belong to the death squads are former members of the police and the National Guard and that they are all criminals. Since the president is making this statement, we can only accept it as true. For a long time this relationship between the security forces and death squads was an open secret in El Salvador and abroad.

It is simply due to the nature of the ruling regime that no action has been taken to put an end to the death squads. Now, apparently due to strong U.S. pressure, an effort has begun to at least decrease the activity of those criminals, as President Magana calls them. However, this is where our disagreement emerges. We don't understand, and we can't imagine, why someone with a proven link with the death squads is rewarded with a golden exile.

According to Alvaro Magana's remarks to the U.S. journalist, some officers must be exiled for the role they have played in the death squads. This means that people responsible for the vile, cowardly, and cold-blooded murder of thousands of Salvadorans are being rewarded rather than punished. Does being a soldier give people a special privilege that places them above Salvadoran laws and justice? It is simply inconceivable that an individual whose hands are stained with blood should now be sent to a diplomatic mission. This is not only a mockery and an affront to the established legal order, but even worse, it is an insult to the suffering and sorrow of the relatives of so many Salvadorans killed by the sinister death squads. At the very least, these criminals should be put on trial, where their responsibility would be established. We are very upset, surprised, and puzzled by President Magana's statement. People who have caused great harm to the country and who have brought about world condemnation of our country are now being rewarded with a golden exile. No. Definitely no. Our conscience, our human feelings demand that we reject this solution. For the 40,000 dead, the 5,000 missing, the 500,000 exiles, for the fatherland, for our nationality, and for future generations, we demand that the guilty be punished, and we oppose their being rewarded.

In conclusion, we only hope that President Magana will not deny his statements. We Salvadorans know well how political leaders say one thing to the international press and then deny everything to the national media. We will let time dispel our doubts.

OFFICERS TIED TO DEATH SQUADS REPORTEDLY REMOVED

PA111556 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] New military changes and the removal of some officers whom the U.S. Government has named as members of the death squads have already been removed or ordered to leave the country, high-ranking Army sources have confirmed. [sentence as heard] Diplomatic sources believe that U.S. aid will remain closely linked to the Armed Forces' and government's respect for human rights.

Army press spokesmen have said that reports on military changes, which in the past could be published, have been ordered to no longer be made public. It has been learned that Colonel Ramon A. Morales Ruiz, former commander of El Paraiso, is under investigation with regard to last year's event and has already been replaced in his post.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORT GUERRILLA CASUALTIES

FL111347 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Army says its troops killed 17 and wounded an undetermined number of guerrillas yesterday in three battles around Suchitoto, 25 miles north of San Salvador. A Defense Ministry communique said one Army sergeant was killed in the fighting.

REBELS CLAIM CONTROL OVER 5,000 SQ KM OF COUNTRY

PA111615 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Three years have passed since historic 10 January 1981, and the Salvadoran working class has built a powerful revolutionary army -- the liberation tool of a people facing imperialist aggression.

Three years ago, we controlled only a few cantons in Morazan and Chalatenango. Today we control a great amount of territory in the departments of Chalatenango, Morazan, San Miguel, San Vicente, Cuscatlan, Cabanas, La Union, and Usulutan. There are 5,000 square km under the control of the people.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA TELLS SENATOR KASTEN ARMS NOT NEEDED

PA111856 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] We don't need arms because we have what we need; more than anything, what we are asking for is understanding, Chief of State General Humberto Mejia Victores said when commenting on the visit by Republic Senator Robert Kasten, chairman of the U.S. Senate Security and Economics Committee [as published].

Mejia said that the conversation he held with Mr Kasten was quite pleasant. Kasten was thoroughly briefed on the government's programs, the work to be done this year, and the process of returning to constitutional rule.

We would have liked for him to visit places of his own choice so he could get a close look at the work to be done; however, he did not have time. He had to continue his tour through the area.

Newsmen asked General Mejia if he had approached Mr Kasten about the possibility of counting on his support to obtain weapons for the Guatemalan Army, since the visitor is chairman of the Senate Security and Economics Committee.

The head of state answered that weapons were not discussed during his talk with the senator, since the Army has what it needs for its own maintenance. We have always emphasized that the only thing Guatemala needs is understanding of its problems and purchasers for its products. For the time being we have what we need to maintain our forces.

ARMY SPOKESMAN ON 'BIG PINE III' MANEUVERS

PA111256 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Colonel Djalma Dominguez, Army public relations chief, said yesterday that Guatemala has not received an official invitation to participate in the "Big Pine III" military maneuvers in Honduras, but if such an invitation were received, the Army High Command, of which the head of state is a member, would consider it.

In the past our Army has directly participated in operations Hawk View I, II, and III, which were organized by CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], because, in the long run, these maneuvers ideologically and technically join armies through an ethical use of resources.

Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez said that currently there are Guatemalan instructors specializing in kaibile [counterinsurgency] tactics, a unique Central American specialty in Honduras. They are training troops, youths pursuing a military career, young officers, and middle echelon cadres interested in learning jungle survival methods and "ranger" type combat techniques for most types of weapons with methods suitable to our tropical environment.

Honduras had asked Guatemala for two kaibile instructors to train its troops in this specialty, and our Army troops are currently carrying out this training mission in Honduras' jungles.

Regarding the new maneuvers organized by Honduras, Big Pine III, I repeat: No official invitation has been received, but should we receive it in the next few days, we will see if it is feasible to participate. As I said, many positive aspects are gained from these exercises.

The two Guatemalan kaibile instructors in Honduras are not there on an official basis. Regarding whether or not Guatemala is invited to participate in the maneuvers to which I have referred, we will issue a report at the proper time.

HONDURAS

REPORTAGE ON AIRCRAFT DOWNED BY SANDINISTS

Initial Report

PA111838 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1816 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Sandinist forces downed a Honduran military aircraft in national territory today near El Triunfo, in the western part of the country, the Honduran Government's international information office has reported. Official Honduran spokesmen said there were no details available as yet on the incident or whether there were any victims.

Government Issues Communique

PA111903 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1844 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Honduran International Information Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 11 January]

[Text] The government of the Republic reports that a Honduran Air Force helicopter was shot down today by fire from Sandinist troops on the road from Trojes to Cifuentes, in an area close to the Nicaraguan border and inside Honduran territory.

The UH-1H aircraft had left Toncontin at 0823 for that area where it was to carry out civic activities. The attack occurred 1 hour after takeoff. Second Lieutenant Leonardo Castellanos Ardon, the pilot, and six other people were in the helicopter. According to an available report there are several wounded.

The Honduran Government denounces this new act of vandalism by the Nicaraguan regime and reiterates its firm decision to continue supporting peace efforts, despite Nicaragua's hostile acts. At the same time, it reiterates its determination to defend the human and territorial integrity of our country in the face of any aggression.

International Information Directorate, Tegucigalpa, 11 January 1984

Downed Helicopter U.S.

PA112131 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A Honduran Government spokesman has reported that the helicopter downed this morning by Sandinist soldiers on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border was a U.S. aircraft.

The source said: "The helicopter that was downed in the Honduran Province of El Paraiso, in the central area of the border with Nicaragua, was a U.S. aircraft participating in an operation as part of the Big Pine II joint maneuvers.

It was initially thought that the downed helicopter was Honduran; however, it was later determined that it was a U.S. aircraft, and that several of its crewmen had been wounded.

BUSINESS LEADER DEFENDS APROH PERFORMANCE

PA111507 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Interview with business leader Mario Belot by unidentified reporter; no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Is it true that the APROH [Association for the Development of Honduras] currently has two members who are important in the government?

[Belot] I am a positive man. Here in Honduras we are getting used to scandal and sensationalism. We can see the accomplishments of APROH, which brings together businessmen, unionists, teachers, peasants, politicians, and militarymen. We have traveled unselfishly to the United States not just once, but two and three times, and we have obtained marvelous sugar quotas. We have tried not only to expose and criticize existing problems, but have also provided or tried to provide solutions. I think the APROH is very good. I have heard politicians say that we need a broad national dialogue. Well, APROH provides exactly that, a national dialogue. This is an opening, but some people think dialogue must be exclusively conducted by the government. I think that we, the Hondurans who produce, invest, and believe in this country, are the ones who must create that national dialogue. I think that APROH provides for a permanent national dialogue. I am a member of APROH, and I say this proudly, but I am not there as president of the Chamber of Commerce. I am there simply as Mario Belot. The unionists are there as private citizens. There is also General Gustavo Alvaro Martinez, who is there as Gustavo Alvaro Martinez, not as chief of the Armed Forces. Thus, I think that instead of suspicion, this organization should be a source of satisfaction, since I have seen no need to fear APROH.

[Reporter] However, certain critics have said that APROH is a local version of the White Hand, a right-wing organization in Guatemala.

[Belot] When APROH began operating, people said it was like the White Hand, that we had copied Guatemala, and that kidnappings, murders, and so forth were about to begin. Over a year has already gone by and none of that has happened. I think things should be viewed positively. Let us look at the Association's achievements, for they are good and incorporate the best of Honduras.

NICARAGUA

REPORTAGE ON AIRCRAFT DOWNED BY SANDINISTS

Borge Comments on Incident

PA120457 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0418 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Managua, 11 Jan (DPA) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge described as "very strange" the presence of an "unidentified" helicopter, believed to be of U.S. registery, at the border between Honduras and Nicaragua.

During a meeting between Borge and U.S. Congressmen Edward Weiss, Barbara Kennedy, and Geraldine Ferraro, the Sandinist leader said that as of the present time the reports heard were "contradictory." Borge added that last year several Nicaraguan aircraft were fired at and damaged, but he did not elaborate.

Borge stated that constant fighting has been going on at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border between Nicaraguan Government forces and "counterrevolutionaries."

According to a dispatch issued this evening by AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA (ANN), U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton was present at the meeting and was very interested in learning the Managua government's version.

Dispatches datelined in Honduras and the United States have stated that a U.S. helicopter was forced to land by Sandinist soldiers, and its two crewmembers were killed. This report has not been refuted by the Sandinist government.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has announced that it will issue a communique tonight to report on the incident.

Defense Ministry Communique

PA120444 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0423 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Department of the Defense Ministry in Managua on 11 January]

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports:

1. During the last few days, beginning on Sunday, January 8, Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops have engaged in intense fighting with counterrevolutionary forces coming from Honduran territory in the border area of Jalapa, Teotecacinte, (Cerro Nubarrones), (Cerro Morocuchi), Portillo de Teotecacinte, Zacatera, and Playa Hermosa in Nueva Segovia Department.

2. The counterrevolutionary forces, estimated at 600 men, attempted to occupy positions in that area, counting on the open complicity of the Honduran Armed Forces, especially for the movement of supplies and food by air and land through various points on the border at which the counterrevolutionaries enter our territory.

3. Our troops counted over 17 flights by helicopters and military planes during this period of counterrevolutionary activity, most of which violated our airspace at the border.

4. Today, after heavy fighting, the counterrevolutionaries who staged the incursion in this border area were dislodged, and our troops forced them to retreat to their original position in Honduran territory. Over seven flights by military helicopters supported the counterrevolutionary forces in their retreat. Up to 1400 today, 58 bodies of counterrevolutionaries have been found during search operations in the area.

5. Today, between 0730 and 0746, an unidentified military helicopter from Honduran territory violated our airspace near the sector of (Cerro Nubarrones), 12 km west of Jalapa. Later it flew over San Francisco Hill, 3 km west of Jalapa; the town of (Tonoli), 2 km north of Jalapa; the EPS military unit located in La Limonera, 2 km north of Jalapa; and the road between the towns of Jalapa and Teotecacinte for 13 km.

In view of this situation, EPS units opened fire against the foreign aircraft, and it maneuvered to descend, losing altitude until it left our airspace in the border area of Murupuchi. It was forced to land in Honduran territory, barely 200 meters from the border between the two countries.

6. Today, in a continuation of their aggressive plans, counterrevolutionary forces supported by troops of the Honduran Army attacked the border post of Murupuchi at 1700, using infantry and artillery fire. Our troops repelled the attack.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA120516 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0440 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 11 January]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry reports the following:

Today the Nicaraguan Government has heard with concern three different versions regarding an incident that ended with the fall of a U.S. helicopter near the war zone of Jalapa-Teotecacinte, on the Honduran border.

The first official version, from the Honduran Government, indicated that a UH-1H helicopter of the Honduran Air Force had been shot down by the Nicaraguan Army in the sector of Cifuentes, near the municipality of Jalapa. It reported that the helicopter's pilot, Second Lieutenant Leonardo Castellon Ardon, had died and that six passengers had been wounded.

The second version was issued in Washington by the Pentagon, through its spokesman Colonel (Robert O'Brien). The communique is hereby reproduced: A U.S. Army (UH-58) helicopter participating in Big Pine II maneuvers crash landed on a Honduran road near the Nicaraguan border at 0930 EST. The helicopter was on a routine flight from San Lorenzo to (Aguacate), to support engineering activities during the exercise. There were three people aboard the helicopter: a pilot and two passengers, who were U.S. Army engineers. After the landing, the helicopter was the target of hostile fire and the pilot was killed. The fire came from the direction of the Nicaraguan border, from one or several unidentified persons. The passengers were evacuated to a U.S. hospital, at the U.S. base in Palmerola, near Comayagua, Honduras.

Surprisingly, after this official communique from the Pentagon, the U.S. State Department called the Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington to present a verbal protest note with a third and contradictory version, accusing the Nicaraguan Army of attacking the helicopter while it was in the air and on the ground.

Given the confusion that might be created among the people by these contradictory versions, the Foreign Ministry hereby reproduces the official Defense Ministry communique issued by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry, establishing the correct version of the event.

The Nicaraguan Government, having learned about the official communique issued by the U.S. Government, deplores this incident and expresses its condolences to the family of the dead pilot, and realizing the seriousness of these events, the government hopes that this incident, which is a direct consequence of the U.S. military presence in the area, will be the last in which the blood of North American soldiers is spilled on Central American soil, and that this will not be used as a pretext to worsen the already critical situation in the Central American area.

BORGE TALKS WITH ABRAMS ON ELECTIONS, FREEDOMS

PA111923 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The elections will be the freest ever held in Nicaragua, and probably in Latin America, Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge said yesterday during a meeting with Elliot Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Commander Borge referred to the Miskito situation, saying that some errors and abuses were committed in the Atlantic Coast area at the beginning of the revolution and that, after analyzing the situation there, the government decided to grant a general amnesty to the Miskitos living in northern Zelaya.

Borge also mentioned freedom of expression, noting that the policy on this can become increasingly flexible as imperialism stops imposing war on the Nicaraguans.

Citing an example of the political opening that exists in Nicaragua, Borge told Mr Abrams that rightist parties had the opportunity to commemorate the 6th anniversary of the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and that this commemoration was freely broadcast by Radio Mundial. The rightist parties were not able to gather more than 300 persons at that event. This shows that they don't have the support of the people, the interior minister stated.

RUIZ OUTLINES GOALS OF L.A. ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

PA120318 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1512 GMT 10 Jan 84

[News conference granted by Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz on 10 January in Managua before leaving for the Latin American Economic Conference in Ecuador -- recorded]

[Excerpts] We are leaving the Ecuador to participate in a conference with all Latin American countries to continue developing the so-called Hurtado initiative. This initiative involves methods of confronting the problem of Latin America's foreign debt with private banks and international organizations.

One of the goals of this initiative was to hold this conference. It also seeks to arrange a meeting of heads of state somewhere in Latin America late this year. Not much progress has been made in regard to this last point, but there is indeed a consensus that the foreign debt must be dealt with by any means.

Just so our people will know, Latin America's debts exceed $300 billion. The simple renegotiation of interest alone would involve $7 billion, which could perfectly well be [word indistinct] or assigned by the IMF to the World Bank. However, there is every indication that this is no longer just a financial problem, but a political problem between the United States and the Latin American countries.

Therefore, this is our plan: We are going to follow up on this initiative, on which Nicaragua has a well-known position. Nicaragua favors the creation of a pool of debtor countries in order to present a common Latin American stand before the major creditors, especially the United States.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

PA112206 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] The European Parliament delegation that today concluded an intensive agenda in Nicaragua will recommend effective economic aid for Central America. Pieter Dankirt, president of the European Parliament, said the delegation met in Nicaragua with members of the revolutionary government, with private and religious sectors, and with the media. He said that the political opening in Nicaragua is satisfactory, and agreed that the institutionalization processes in the Central American region can help in the achievement of peace in the region.

Dankirt reiterated support for the Contadora Group peace efforts, and also mentioned the situation in El Salvador. He said that in the report that is being prepared by the delegation for the Political Commission of the European Parliament, the matter of human rights in El Salvador will be discussed, as well as the economic situation and that of cooperation. The delegation did not refer to the aggression to which Nicaragua has been subjected, but expressed confidence that the electoral processes in the region will ease the danger of war in Central America. This statement was made by Pieter Dankirt at a press conference he held with his entourage at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, met this afternoon with the European Parliament delegation headed by Companero Pieter Dankirt. The delegation was received by Ortega at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. The talks between Government Junta Coordinator Commander Ortega and the European Parliament delegation this afternoon were private. As is well known, the delegation met with several personalities from our political and economic sectors in an effort to gain in-depth knowledge of the reality of our popular Sandinist revolution.

CIVILIAN RESIDENTS OF POTOSI EVACUATED

PA112153 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Report from Chinandega by Luis Arroliga]

[Text] Potosi, a port town of some 600 homes, was completely evacuated today.

Due to the constant harassment and attacks by the counterrevolutionaries, our Revolutionary Government represented by Companero Carlos Zamora; Commander Javier Pichardo; Luis Felipe Perez Caldera, director of the municipal juntas for the western areas; and the FSLN's area vanguard in El Viejo directed the evacuation of the 1,200 civilian residents of Potosi. The residents were urgently evacuated to a hamlet known as (El Cociguila). They will remain there for 15 days, and an emergency committee will take care of them. The emergency committee has been formed by MINSA [Health Ministry], INAA [Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewers Institute], [words indistinct], and the FSLN's area vanguard. The 1,200 residents are receiving food from the emergency committee organized by these institutions, and they have been evacuated to [El Cociguila] hamlet, far from the dangerous area of Potosi.

The companero delegate minister [not further identified] and the emergency committee have announced that the evacuees will remain in this hamlet for 15 days, and will then be relocated in a cooperative development town in (El Manzanillo), several kilometers from Potosi.

As of today, the area of Potosi, which has experienced constant criminal attacks during the past few days, has been completely evacuated.

EXILED WORKERS GROUPS COMBINE, JOIN ARDE

PA111553 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0100 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] On Monday, 9 January, in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, held a press conferernce for local and foreign correspondents to announce officially that organized workers in exile have joined the organization. Alfonso Robelo, Brooklyn Rivera, and Jose Davila, members of ARDE's revolutionary directorate, were introduced to the press by Orion Pastora, press and propaganda secretary for ARDE. The revolutionary directorate was joined by Donald Castillo, a Christian labor leader well known for his long struggle in the ranks of the Nicaraguan Workers Federation, CTN, the organization leading the Christian workers in exile.

The CTN, together with the Alliance of Exiled Nicaraguan Workers, ATN, an organization led by (Zacarias Hernandez), have joined to form a stronger union, which they call the Nicaraguan Democratic Workers Solidarity, STDN [Solidaridad de Trabajadores Democraticos Nicaraguenses]. This new organization has joined ARDE.

Radio and television stations and foreign correspondents have reported on the STDN's communique, in which they announce joining the group with the greatest moral prestige struggling against Managua's totalitarian regime.

This group's joining ARDE further defines what ARDE stands for. The workers are not mistaken. Their good judgment has led them to their proper place. They are the real vanguard of the majority. The workers will struggle to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution without totalitarianism or return to the past.

Brooklyn Rivera, an Indian representating the Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, blacks, and whites born on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast, also known as creoles, spoke emotionally for the revolutionary directorate of ARDE to the directorate of the STDN. Companero Donald Castillo was installed in the ARDE directorate and democratic assembly. The other delegates to the assembly nominated by the workers are: Otilio Garcia, a Christian worker; and Francis Bermudez and Maria Auxiliadora of the ATN.

FDN REPORTS ACTIONS IN NUEVA SEGOVIA, JINOTEGA

PA112243 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] Achuapa Bridge, located some 12 km from the city of Ocotal, capital of the Department of Nueva Segovia, was attacked Sunday night by rebel commandos of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN.

According to the clandestine station Radio 15 September, the FDN special brigades that carried out the operation encountered no resistance, and later withdrew in an orderly manner to their guerrilla positions in the Nueva Segovia mountains.

According to the source, the Achuapa Bridge is located between Ocotal and Ciudad Antigua, in one of the areas where FDN guerrillas are most active. The Sandinist army used this bridge to transport reinforcements to the combat zones.

A few days ago, an FDN spokesman said that FDN commandos had occupied Ciudad Antigua for 2 hours, after overcoming the defenses.

In another sector of northern Nicaragua, in the Department of Jinotega, the Andres Castro Task Force continued its insurgent operations against Sandinist objectives. On 6 January a group of commandos commanded by Chalandri carried out a surprise attack on the Sandinist government's military quarters in Wali, 80 km northeast of Jinotega's capital making the Sandinist soldiers flee in disarray. The Andres Castro Task Force is led by Commander Dimas.

According to the rebel station, the bodies of 30 Sandinist soldiers who died in the clash were abandoned by the government troops. The FDN forces recovered Garand and DP rifles.

The following day, the same combat group clashed with Sandinist reinforcements. After 13 hours of fighting, the Sandinist forces were forced to withdraw to their main base in Waslala, once again taking a large number of dead and wounded with them.

BRIEFS

WFTU CONDEMNS AGGRESSION -- The World Federation of Trade Unions, WFTU, has sent a message to the United Nations strongly condemning the Reagan administration's interventionist policy and urging the United Nations to do something to stop the brutal U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. A copy of the message was sent to the Sandinist Workers Federation, CST. [Excerpt] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p 5 PA]

COMMENTARY REFUTES U.S. CRITICISM OF ECONOMY

PA120224 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today almost everyone, including many of our enemies, has acknowledged that Cuba has achieved significant success in the areas of public health and education and in feeding the people. However, the enemies of the Cuban revolution continue to question Cuba's economic success.

Recently the Voice of America aired several programs aimed at criticizing Cuba and promoting the idea that the economy of the first socialist country in America is bankrupt. With this maneuver they are once again trying to fool the peoples of the so-called Third World, especially those of Latin America. Once again we have proven that the imperialists are not afraid of Cuba exporting its revolution, but of its example remaining alive and serving as a model for the other Latin American peoples who are already tired of dictatorships and bourgeois democracies.

The truth is that our economy, despite the Yankee economic blockade, has grown at an average rate of 4.7 percent per year for the past 25 years since the triumph of the revolution. Cuba's growth rate has been one of the highest in Latin America during this period.

As further proof of our solid economy, we can add that despite the funds we are forced to invest in the defense of the homeland every year, the budgets for health, education, culture, sports, science, and technology grow. Every year more and more funds are invested in the maintenance and building of homes, and every year more funds are allocated to the development of industry, agriculture, and the economic infrastructure.

In 1984 the budget allocated for science and technology will increase by 15.6 percent, the health budget will increase by 14.3 percent, housing and communal services will increase by 14.1 percent, sports will increase by 10.8 percent, art and culture will increase by more than 9 percent, education will increase by 5.1 percent, and social security will increase by 4.2 percent.

Amid the world economic crisis, and while Latin American economy dropped 1 percent in 1982 and 3.3 percent in 1983, the Cuban economy grew 2.5 percent in 1982 and 5 percent in 1983. The goal set for 1984 is the same as last year's figure.

If Cuba were not economically stable, then how could we support an education system that costs more than $1.7 billion and a public health system with costs in the $600 million bracket? How could we have become a country without unemployment and with an advanced social security system that provides help for all workers? How could we -- after Argentina, a country with great resources -- be the second best fed country in Latin America with a daily diet that includes almost 3,000 calories and 80 grams of protein per capita?

A recent study performed by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission referred to this when analyzing the Cuban situation. The commission, despite the fact it is a bitter enemy of Cuba, had to admit our successes in education, public health, and feeding the people.

We are also a country that has no abandoned children, no beggars, no prostitution, no gambling, and no drugs. These truths, although they may hurt the imperialists, are an example for all the peoples of the Third World.

CASTRO MEETS HUNGARIAN DEPUTY PREMIER MARJAI

FL111257 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has received Jozsef Marjai, member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, deputy premier of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the Hungarian side of the Cuban-Hungarian commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, which is holding talks in our country.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the international situation, bilateral cooperation, and other topics of interests.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee; and the ambassadors of Hungary to Cuba and Cuba to Hungary were present at the meeting, which was held in a friendly climate.

COLOMBIAN PAPER INTERVIEWS CASTRO ON GRENADA

PA111945 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0810 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 11 Jan (EFE) -- The U.S. invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada benefited Cuba, Cuban President Fidel Castro stated in an interview granted today to the Medellin newspaper El MUNDO.

"No one can imagine what the brutal U.S. invasion of Grenada has positively signified for Cuba and for all the Latin American revolutionary movements," Castro said.

"Not even Reagan knows the good he has done us," President Castro said in statements to the EL MUNDO special correspondent who interviewed him in Havana.

For Fidel Castro, the revolutionary spirit has never been as high as it is now.

"Although it is true that Reagan's bullying move domestically served to practically secure his reelection for the next presidential term, the discredit of the United States throughout the world has reached unexpected levels today," he affirmed.

Castro also added that "the Reagan administration must be thinking of many things when, using various maneuvers and physical and psychological ploys, it attempted to lure each of the 730 Cuban hostages and prisoners to the United States (including 550 workers and civilians and 27 military advisers) by offering them all kinds of comforts and gifts."

"But none of them yielded to the threats or blackmail and all acted as true Cubans and revolutionaries, which is the most wonderful aspect," Castro concluded.

'OUR AMERICA' PRAISES CONTADORA SEARCH FOR PEACE

PA110441 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] From the moment that the Contadora Group -- consisting of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama -- was created on the Panamanian island of the same name, it has been actively involved in serious, specific steps aimed at securing peace in Central America.

All of the group's efforts and contacts in this regard have been praised by most Latin American and world governments. The Contadora Group is solely interested in reducing the political tension in this convulsed area, whose explosiveness constitutes a constant threat to international peace.

The United States alone has, with its actions, demonstrated opposition to the Contadora initiatives. Even though White House officials publicly state their support for the group daily, facts prove the very opposite. The United States has tried from the very outset to undermine the Contadora Group's praiseworthy efforts. It created, almost at the same time that the Contadora Group was formed, the so-called Kissinger commission on Central America, an obvious effort to interfere with the work of the Mexican, Colombian, Venezuelan, and Panamanian representatives.

While the Contadora Group has received the world's support, the Kissinger commission has, on the contrary, been rejected by political personalities and union representatives all over the world, particularly in Latin America. The region's press has repeatedly reported that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's commission is simply Washington's tool to justify President Ronald Reagan's warmongering policy in Central America before Congress.

In this regard, the Mexican newspaper EL DIA has declared that the report prepared for President Reagan by the Kissinger commission only serves to confirm the geopolitical criteria brandished by the U.S. head of state in defense of his aggressive actions in Central America. The newspaper stressed that the document is similar to the rhetoric used by Henry Kissinger in the sixties to justify U.S. policy toward Vietnam. The newspaper UNOMASUNO noted that the report stands in stark contrast to the Contadora Group's efforts for peace.

The commission has confused the scope of the problem, ascribing it to the East-West conflict and emphasizing the military aspects of the Central American crisis. On the other hand, the Contadora Group has maintained a position that is completely opposite the Kissinger commission's criteria. This weekend, the Contadora Group held an important meeting in Panama City with the five Central American countries' foreign ministers in which the principles for the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the 21-point Document of Objectives were approved. The new document, approved last Sunday, is considered a preliminary peace agreement for the Central American region.

The document that was approved at the Contadora Group foreign ministers' fifth meeting with their Central American counterparts also establishes the creation of three working commissions that will be in charge of the region's security, political, and socioeconomic affairs. The commissions must be established before 31 January and will have to present their reports, legal plans, and suggestions no later than 30 April. From that date, they will be able to adopt and carry out specific peace agreements that can guarantee stability in Central America.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto regretted the fact that it was agreed to eliminate the first point in the principles, which referred to the establishment of a ban on the purchase of weapons, to take effect on 29 February, but Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella called on all of the Central American heads of state to pledge support for the preliminary peace agreements that were signed on Sunday in Panama City.

In general terms, it has been determined that the Contadora Group is, for the time being, the only viable solution that can reconcile the interests of all of the area's states and thus achieve peace in Central America. The hopes of all rest on the steps that will be taken next by the Group in its efforts to successfully attain the objectives for which it was created a year ago.

D'Escoto Praises Contadora

PA102017 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has described the recent meeting of the Contadora Group and Central American foreign ministers as highly positive. He also warned that the presence of U.S. troops endangers peace in the region. As long as U.S. military forces remain in Central America, particularly in Honduras, there is the danger of a direct and armed U.S. intervention, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said.

D'Escoto harshly criticized Washington's ambivalent policy, which on the one hand verbally supports the Contadora Group's efforts and on the other finances, organizes, and directs criminal actions against Nicaragua.

He added that the agreement signed in Panama City is the most important achievement of the Contadora process, but he noted that they were unable to have mentioned in the document the foreign military bases and forces in the area and to obtain promises from other Central American countries to take measures to put an end to them immediately. Nevertheless, he stressed that the agreement achieved permits the beginning of the implementation of the Contadora Group's Document of Objectives. It is good that we have gone from declarations to an action that enables us to turn those obejctives into something specific and concrete, the Nicaraguan foreign minister stressed.

Nunez Criticizes U.S.

PA112140 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council, has accused the U.S. Government of hindering the Contadora Group's international efforts and peace proposals for Central America, and asserted that President Ronald Reagan's policy engenders actions against Nicaragua marked by vandalism and destruction.

At a special State Council session, Nunez stressed that in the midst of war Nicaragua is struggling for peace, noting that in the Central American area it maintains good relations with Panama and that there is the possibility of an effective dialogue with Cota Rica. He added that relations with Guatemala have increased substantially, while government-level communications with Honduras are difficult because that country is both politically and militarily occupied by the United States, whose presence extends to El Salvador.

For his part, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told THE NEW YORK TIMES that the United States has not resigned itself to the irreversible nature of the Sandinist revolution's victory.

He asserted that although the White House verbally endorses the Contadora Group, it still prefers a military solution in Central America. D'Escoto recalled that at the latest Contadora Group meeting an agreement was reached to reduce and withdraw foreign troops from the area, but that Honduras indicated that it will continue its joint military maneuvers with U.S. troops and refused to discuss the attacks that the Somozist bands launch from its territory against Nicaragua.

GOALS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION REITERATED

FL111500 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] People from factories, farms, cooperatives, and students in schools, and all other cooperatives in the country have all manifested in assemblies their full support of the resolution of the 8th Central Committee Plenum of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]. This document offers a synthesis of the principal successes the country achieved last year, 1983, a year that saw our economy grow by 5 percent. The document outlines the main tasks that each sector should accomplish in 1984.

The resolution of the 8th Plenum, therefore, is a work outline, a guide for each and every Cuban revolutionary, independent of the specific work they do.

This document of our party leadership calls for an increase in production and productivity and for improving the products' quality and services. It also calls for the development of a climate of culture in keeping with the needs of the masses, for promoting the fulfillment of the science and technology plan, and for strengthening the socialist legality.

The 8th Plenum resolution specially emphasizes the need for the defense of revolutionary conquests. On this matter, it not only specifies the principal FAR missions but also refers to the role the party, state, and mass organizations should play, if it were found to be necessary, in waging the people's war until the aggressor has been beaten and expelled. Increasing the amount of fortifications, continuing the expansion of the MTT [Territorial Troops Militia], increasing contributions for this self-financing force, and creating areas of defense are some of the principal tasks in the defense area that we are called upon to accomplish.

Along with this, we have to strengthen the FAR combat readiness, assure its rapid deployment capability, and pay attention to the systematic enforcement of the military draft because of the importance it has in the mobilization of men and equipment, which complements the military units during wartime.

The resolution of the 8th Central Committee Plenum exhorts the deepening and enriching of ideological work with all sectors of society, especially with the new generations, and the strengthening of the struggle against reminiscing about the bourgeois and petit bourgeois ideologies to perfect the patriotic and internationalist formation of the masses.

On the aforementioned matters, it is necessary to reiterate that the resolution of the 8th Plenum is a working tool, a daily work guide, a document that should be thoroughly studied by all revolutionaries, because all of us are called up on to accomplish what is postulated in this document.

DELEGATE ADDRESSES PORTUGUESE CP CONGRESS

PM101003 Lisbon AVANTE! in Portuguese 29 Dec 83 p 14 (supplement)

[Apparent text of speech by Communist Party of Cuba Politburo candidate member Antonio Perez Herrero at the 10th Portuguese Communist Party Congress in Oporto -- undated]

[Text] Dear comrades:

For over 6 decades of fruitful and militant existence the PCP has kept aloft the banners of the working class, which no one will be able to abase. This country's people's masses can feel proud of the role that the party has been able to play at the most difficult moments because of its resoluteness, selflessness, and loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and the principles of proletarian internationalism. Allow me, on the occasion of the holding of your 10th congress, to convey to you the fraternal greetings of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, our members, and our entire people.

This congress is taking place at a moment when international tensions have worsened and mankind faces unprecedented dangers.

Never has peace been so much in danger as today. Never has mankind's survival been so gravely threatened as today. Responsibility for this rests entirely with the aggressive and overbearing policy of the current U.S. Administration, which does not shrink from the greatest provocations and the most repugnant crimes.

The decision to deploy 572 new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe constitutes a challenge to international public opinion.

Our country lies in an area of the world where the tensions, threats, and dangers have recently multiplied. The brutal invasion of the island of Grenada is the most recent and eloquent demonstration of the lack of scruples of the current U.S. Administration, which did not hesitate to use its enormous power to trample underfoot the sovereignty of one of the smallest states in the world. In Grenada 24 Cuban workers, who were engaged in peaceful construction work and who fell heroically in stubborn and unequal resistance to their attackers, lost their lives. But it is not merely a matter of Grenada.

In Central America imperialism is conducting a veritable undeclared war against the courageous people of Nicaragua, who are defending their right to freedom, self-determination, progress, and life; it is attempting to crush the Salvadoran people's heroic struggle and is brazenly stepping up the preparations for military aggression in the area. The struggle of the peoples of Latin America and their rejection of U.S. imperialism's criminal policy are increasing daily, as is demonstrated by the stubborn resistance offered by the Guatemalan people and the courageous Chilean people's struggle against fascist tyranny.

In Africa and in the Middle East, the peoples are resisting the activity of U.S. imperialism. The heroic Palestinians, the Lebanese patriots, the Saharan fighters, the fighters of Namibia and South Africa, the fraternal peoples of Ethiopia, Angola, and Mozambique, and the Arab peoples confronted by the aggression of Zionism and imperialism are all struggling there.

Comrades of the PCP,

Cuba, which has resisted for 23 years the illegal and criminal Yankee economic blockade and the repeated U.S. aggressions, provocations, and military threats, and which has faced the hostility of seven U.S. Administrations, keeps and will keep aloft the banners of proletarian internationalism.

As Comrade Fidel Castro has stated: "Our country may be swept from the face of the earth, but it will never be conquered or subjugated." In thanking the PCP and its leaders for the fraternal welcome with which they have honored us, we express our gratitude to the Communists and people of Portugal, who, loyal to their revolutionary traditions, have constantly expressed their solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

ECUADOR'S VALENCIA CONFIRMS PLANS TO RESUME TIES

PA100415 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Interview with Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Minister Luis Valencia Rodriquez by Pedro Martinez Pirez at the Hotel Colon in Quito; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Valencia, I would like to know what you think this Latin American Economic Conference already means to Ecuador and to the other peoples of our America.

[Valencia] I think that the mere fact that we have managed to make it such a high-level conference, with the presence of four Latin American heads of state and six members of the Followup Group of Santo Domingo, already renders the conference a success. This means that the area's countries are fully conscious of the serious problems that they are facing, both individually and as a region as a whole because of the regional economic crisis, which is itself a repercussion of the world economic crisis. Moreover, this indicates that there is keen interest in the region in taking concerted action to overcome our current difficulties. I also hope that this conference will sketch the fundamental points upon which the region's countries may agree, so that they may tackle the problems resulting from the economic crisis.

[Martinez Pirez] Mr Valencia, what value do you attach to the support that Cuba has always given to the convocation of this conference here in Quito, in your country?

[Valencia] We have noticed since Mr President Hurtado launched this initiative in February of last year that the Cuban Government has openly and solidly supported it. Therefore, Ecuador is deeply thankful to the Cuban Government and people for this show of appreciation for Ecuador and for the support that they have given President Hurtado's initiative.

[Martinez Pirez] A few days ago, President Osvaldo Hurtado told the press in Guayaquil that relations between Cuba and Ecuador will shortly be normalized. What can you tell us about this?

[Valencia] That is true. The foreign ministries of our two countries -- the Ecuadoran Foreign Relations Ministry in Quito and the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry in Havana -- have been in contact for some time, working to overcome past difficulties and to normalize our diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. This step will be taken shortly.

VENEZUELA'S LUSINCHI TO STUDY IMPROVED RELATIONS

FL101739 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] EL DIARIO DE CARACAS has expressed support for an improvement in and the development of Venezuelan-Cuban relations and disclosed that a special commission appointed by President-elect Jaime Lusinchi will travel to Havana in February.

The newspaper said that this commission will study with Cuban officials the possibility for the normalization of bilateral relations as soon as possible.

VOLIO OPPOSES COSTA RICAN NEUTRALITY STATUTE

FL101755 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Former Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio has returned to the political arena in a clear confrontation with President Luis Alberto Monge on the perpetual neutrality statute adopted by the country.

Volio said that he will begin a campaign against this statute and noted that the government might try to add it to the Constitution, an action opposed by Costa Rican rightist sectors.

Volio warned that the neutrality proclamation, as it was drafted, prevents the country from participating, together with other political forces and governments, in the defense of the regime.

The former Costa Rican foreign minister resigned on 17 November and his absence from the Foreign Ministry has been described by U.S. Ambassador to San Jose Curtin Winsor as a loss to the continent.

RADIO VENCEREMOS OFFICIAL DISCUSSES OPERATIONS

PA101512 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] In its 3 years of work Radio Venceremos has become a major means of organization and information in the struggle the Salvadoran people are waging in all of the country's zones and cantons, Rafael Velasquez, who is in charge of the Radio Venceremos system abroad, told this station on the occasion of that organ's third anniversary.

Velasquez stressed the contributions the Salvadoran revolutionary process has made to the development of the radio, in its mode as militant journalist for Latin America and as a combative and informative medium from the trenches.

In conclusion, he stressed the firmness, combativeness, and interest in continuous preparation of the members of Radio Venceremos who, in their sphere of struggle, do not differentiate between their political, cultural, and military activities.

SALVADORAN ARMY 'FORCIBLY RECRUITING' MINORS

PA100458 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the Salvadoran FMLN, has charged that the Army is forcibly recruiting minors, forcing them to fight the guerrillas, and has warned parents of this situation.

The rebel station said that because of the evident disarray in the Army and the mass desertions, the military high command has resumed its campaign of threats to induct youths into its ranks. Radio Venceremos also charged that the Honduran Armed Forces are continuing their threats against Salvadoran citizens fleeing to the Honduran border to escape government repression.

The guerrilla station said that the Honduran Army high command will be held responsible for whatever happens to the Salvadorans and stressed that the Tegucigalpa regime closes its borders to the refugees while allowing thousands of U.S. Marines to enter the country.

According to other reports, Salvadoran rebel groups attacked the garrison in the town of Nombre de Jesus, where they killed 3 soldiers and seized 3 mortars and 19 rifles. Guerrilla forces also blew up high-tension towers and left a major portion of San Vicente Department without power.

SALVADORAN GUERRILLA FORCES MAKE GAINS

PA112136 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Salvadoran FMLN forces have routed a company of the special Ramon Belloso Battalion near Dulce Nombre de Maria, where indiscriminate bombings by the Salvadoran Air Force caused numerous casualties among the civilian population.

According to the rebel station Radio Farabundo Marti, guerrilla units occupied (San Andres Labrador) in San Miguel Department and clashes took place in the area of (Joroco) and other parts of Morazan Department.

The regime's Armed Forces, meanwhile, have announced the dismissal of Colonel Morales Ruiz, chief of the 4th Infantry Brigade, which was dismembered by the guerrillas' sucessful attack on its garrison in El Paraiso on 30 December. Morales Ruiz has been replaced by Colonel Luis Adalberto Landaverde, who will be in command of a new counter-insurgency operation launched near El Paraiso, which includes Las Vueltas, Dulce Nombre de Maria, Comalapa, and other areas in Chalatenango Department.

Meanwhile, Alvaro Magana, chief of the Salvadoran regime, has admitted that he is unable to adopt the measures suggested by the U.S. Government to eliminate the death squads, which are linked to various high-ranking Armed Forces officials.

For his part, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Thomas Pickering has told journalists that he will advise Washington to increase its military aid to the Salvadoran regime. According to the U.S. diplomat, he is pleased with the Salvadoran authorities' response to his request that the human rights situation be improved.

It has also been learned that the U.S. mission in San Salvador has pressured Magana's regime into sending abroad about a dozen government officials connected with the death squads, the paramilitary bodies charged with killing over 1,000 people last year alone.

Finally, Magana has denied a report published in the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK which says he has organized a military commission to investigate the civilians connected with the Salvadoran paramilitary organizations.

HONDURAN LEADER DEMANDS U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL

PA101912 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Jorge Arturo Reina, president of the People's Liberal Alliance, a faction of the ruling Honduran party, has demanded the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops stationed in Honduras. He has also expressed full support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

Reina, who is on a private visit to Nicaragua, said that the presence of U.S. military forces violates Honduras' national sovereignty and right to self-determination. He also condemned the training of Salvadoran soldiers in Honduran territory. He added that the use of Honduran territory by counterrevolutionary groups to attack Nicaragua is a violation of the right of asylum. He said he hopes that the Contadora Group will achieve the greatest possible success in its search for a political solution to the Central American conflict.

PRESENCE OF U.S. ADVISERS IN HONDURAS CONDEMNED

PA111604 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The People's Armed Forces has condemned in Tegucigalpa the presence of U.S. military advisers in Honduras who are training Salvadoran troops at the base in Puerto Castilla. The group accepted responsibility for two bomb explosions in the Honduran capital, one of them in front of the Chilean Embassy, which did not claim victims or cause any damage.

A communique distributed via a propaganda bomb states that the next war actions of the so-called People's Armed Forces will be directed at the Salvadoran Army troops training in Honduras and the military advisers from the United States, Israel and other countries.

In Tegucigalpa, General Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, affirmed that the training of Salvadoran troops will continue at the U.S. base in Puerto Castilla, contradicting recent statements by Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica, who said that his government would analyze the possible withdrawal of the Salvadoran soldiers.

NUNEZ DISCUSSES ELECTION PLANS IN NICARAGUA

PA102015 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council, has announced that the laws establishing the bases for the electoral process will be ready for midyear. Nunez announced this at a meeting in Managua with a delegation of legislators currently visiting Nicaragua. The delegation is led by European Parliament President Pieter Dankirt.

Nunez explained that once these laws are approved, an electoral apparatus, a voting system, and a registry will be created.

NICARAGUA SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO HONDURAS

PA111925 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has sent a note to the Honduran Government protesting the 8 January attack on the region of (Vado Ancho), Chinandega Department, by Somozist mercenaries and soldiers of the Honduran Army.

The note stresses that on that occasion the aggressors attacked a Sandinist People's Army patrol with mortars, rocket launchers, grenade launchers, and heavy machineguns. There was a second attack hours later.

The note reiterates Nicaragua's firm conviction that these actions are irrefutable proof not only of the Honduran authorities' complicity with the anti-Sandinist groups but also of the charges of Honduran Army complicity in provocation.

NICARAGUAN DEFENSE MINISTRY CLAIMS GAINS

FL111315 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Managua -- The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has disclosed that approximately 100 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in the past 4 days in clashes with forces of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

Forty-two counterrevolutionaries were killed in actions in the (Paca) sector, 35 km northeast of Blanco River in Matagalpa Department. The Sandinist forces seized the 2 M-60 machineguns, 20 FAL rifles, 5,000 bullets, and 200 grenades.

In clashes that occurred in the Waspan sector, Zelaya Norte, on Sunday, the EPS annihilated 30 invaders, the Defense Ministry stressed. Two counterrevolutionaries were killed in the (Ilipan) region, 13 km east of Leimus on the border with Honduras, the same day. The death of 17 infiltrators in Santa Clara and 2 more in Quilali, both towns in Nueva Segovia Department, had also been reported.

PERUVIAN PETROLEUM, MINE WORKERS STRIKE

PA070501 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] The 8,000 workers of the State Petroleum Agency, PETROPERU, today entered the 14th day of their strike without any hopeful sign for a solution to their wage adjustment and other demands.

Yesterday five strikers were wounded when police attacked workers of the Iquitos sales plant in the Peruvian jungle region.

Meanwhile, miners of the Cata-Acari deposits, on a hunger strike for the past 10 days, expressed their disagreement with the partial response to their demands announced Thursday by the Labor Ministry. Joaquin Leguia, [not further identified], who promised them payment of the 11 months' wages due, appeared reluctant to reopen the mines.

PERUVIAN GENERALS BEING INVESTIGATED FOR FRAUD

PA110333 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] General Joaquin Balaguer, director of the Peruvian Civil Guard, and 4 other generals are among the 100 or so people charged with involvement in the gigantic misuse of funds destined for the victims of the earthquake that rocked Peru in 1970.

The Investigative Commission presided over by Senator Domingo Angeles Ramirez reviewed the performance of the three Peruvian organizations that were created to aid the area affected by the quake, which cost the lives of 50,000 people.

According to Ramirez, the misuse affected 25 percent of the international and governmental aid provided between 1970 and 1980 to the area affected by the earthquake.

Others implicated in the huge misuse of the funds destined for the victims of the earthquake in Peru are Army Generals Carlos Villapasos, Luis Ladera Velarde, and Fernan Velarde Bosan, and Civil Guard General Isaac Costa Ferrecci.

PERU INVESTIGATING MURDER OF PIP GENERAL

PA090450 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Peruvian Investigative Police [PIP] have refused to confirm or deny reports that two officers and two policemen have been arrested in connection with the killing of a PIP general.

The PIP issued an official communique in response to a report published in EL DIARIO MARKA, in which it limits itself to reporting that the December 1983 killing of General Carlos Herrea is still under investigation.

The paper reported that the four policemen killed Gen Herrea when he surprised them while they were attempting to steal his automobile.

Meanwhile, the Peruvian Government has increased fuel prices at the same time that numerous other products have increased in price the past few days. The approximately 8-percent increase in the price of fuel is one of the measures announced by Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, minister of economy, finance and commerce, who said that price increases will continue due to the existing difficult situation facing the country.

Deputy Alan Garcia, secretary general of APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], described the economy, finance and commerce minister as an excellent debt collector for foreign banks, and reiterated APRA's opposition to the government's policies.

CHARLES POSTPONES OECS MEETING WITH GRENADA

FL111725 Bridgetown CANA in English 1703 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 11 (CANA) -- Next Friday's planned meeting between Grenada's provisional administration and heads of government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has been postponed, Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles announced today.

Miss Charles told reporters that the Grenada Government had over the past few days been holding discussions with a number of international figures on further development assistance to the island, and the postponement was to give the council some time to discuss the matters raised. She gave no new date for the meeting, which was to have discussed security matters, particularly the development of the Grenada police force, in the aftermath of last year's bloody political crisis in that country.

JAMAICA

ROSS ELECTED SPEAKER, ADDRESSES CHAMBER

FL111745 Bridgetown CANA in English 1405 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 11 (CANA) -- Current differences between Jamaica's two major political parties should take second place to the national interest, the speaker of the island's new one-party House of Representatives, Alva Ross, has told the chamber.

Ross was elected to the chair last night by his ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) colleagues, who hold all 60 seats in the lower house following a boycott of December 15 general elections by the People's National Party (PNP), formerly the main parliamentary opposition.

The PNP has charged that the election and the government are illegitimate because the poll was called on a three-year-old register that disenfranchised 150,000 eligible voters and contained the names of 100,000 people who had either died or emigrated. It also claimed that Prime Minister Edward Seaga reneged on a pledge by both parties in 1980 that no further general elections would be called before the introduction of reforms to eliminate fraudulent voting.

Ross noted that Jamaicans were accustomed to a two-party parliamentary system. "I regret that for reasons best known to them the other major party did not find it possible to participate in the elections," he said. But Ross added: "The Constitution of this country does not concern itself with political parties. The mantle has fallen on us as parliamentarians to ensure that regardless of what political differences we might have, the interest of the country takes precedence over all other considerations," the speaker said.

Thousands of PNP supporters yesterday demonstrated outside Parliament to protest the swearing-in of what ex-opposition leader Michael Manley called a bogus Parliament and to back demands for the holding of a new poll when the electoral system is reformed.

PNP Demonstrates for New Poll

FL111605 Bridgetown CANA in English 2350 GMT 10 Jan 84

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 10 (CANA) -- Thousands of supporters of Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP), which boycotted last month's general election, today demonstrated outside Parliament in what party leader Michael Manley said was the first round in a battle to force a new poll here. The protest demonstration, under the watchful eyes of a large armed police detachment, was timed to coincide with this afternoon's swearing-in of the 60 new members of the House of Representatives -- all members of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) -- as well as a Senate nominated solely by the prime minister.

A senior police officer said about 400 officers were either deployed or on call at stations for today's situation, and a contingent of soldiers guarded areas near the Parliament Building.

The PNP boycotted the December 15 election, contending that the three-year-old voters register had disfranchised 150,000 young people and that the government had reneged on a pledge made by both parties before the 1980 general election not to call another poll before implementing reforms to eliminate fraudulent voting.

"We have come here today because what is taking place up there (inside Parliament) is bogus," Manley told his cheering supporters. As a result, Manley said, everything that flowed from the election was bogus. Manley called for an election to put the situation right. The demonstration, he said, "was only the first round" in his party's action to force Seaga into a new election, but he declined to say what would come next.

He urged Jamaicans to make use of an extended period of voters enumeration under the system requiring photo-identification and thumb-printing, saying that when a voters' list under this system was finalised his party would be ready for an election.

Seaga is already on record as saying that he will not bow to pressures for a new election.

Said Manley: "When we have a list on which live man has a vote, dead man no vote, the live voter has an ID card, and the dead voter is in heaven, at that time we will be ready."

"And anytime that time comes we will wipe them into political oblivion once and for all."

Inside the House, the former Local Government Minister Alva Ross was elected speaker, while five JLP members who were detainees during a 1976 state of emergency provided a moment of mirth when all shook hands to cheers from their colleagues.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

FL120020 Bridgetown CANA in English 2314 GMT 11 Jan 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 11 (CANA) -- The Trinidad and Tobago Government today announced a slash in imports, an increase in taxes, and a cutback in subsidies -- in all, 887 million dollars in new revenue measures -- as Prime Minister George Chambers presented a 9.1-billion-dollar budget (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) for 1984.

The budget, comprising 6.9 billion dollars in recurrent expenditure and a capital works programme of 2.2 billion dollars, was nearly a billion dollars smaller than last year's 9.9-billion-dollar package, and reflected government's declining revenue predicament. especially in the oil sector, the main pillar of the economy for the last decade.

Recurrent revenue for 1984 was projected at 6,489.8 million dollars.

"The measures to lower expenditure and raise additional revenue will yield a total of 887 million dollars," said Chambers, "so that the current surplus in 1984 will be 401.8 million dollars." He added that a total of 1,170 million dollars would be drawn from cash balances, "thus 69 per cent of the proposed capital programme will be financed from our domestic fiscal resources." The balance of the capital programme, Chambers said, would be financed from net borrowing, both domestic and foreign, of which the latter is projected at 402 million dollars or 17.6 per cent of the total.

Chambers cut subsidies on a wide range of goods, pushing up prices -- gasolene for instance went from 55 cents to 85 cents a litre and counter flour from 86 cents to a dollar per kilo -- and said the level of certain imports would be cut by between 20 and 80 per cent.

There would be no foreign exchange allocation at all for foreign aerated beverages and beer, the minister of finance declared.

Land tax, which was collected at a rate of 24 cents per acre since 1918, moves to 20 dollars an acre.

Travel by air between Trinidad and its sister island Tobago goes up from 40 to 75 dollars round trip.

Purchase tax has been extended to a wider range of goods, including building materials, soft drinks, biscuits, and fruit juices.

Chambers also called for wage restraint. "Present day economic circumstances dictate that this (current) level of wage and salary increase is no longer sustainable and that new realism must be injected into the industrial relations structure if the necessary economic adjustments are to be achieved at minimum social cost," he declared.

Chambers said the sugar industry was uneconomical and announced plans to diversify the sector, giving attention to food crops and increasing poultry production.

According to Chambers, the major challenge now facing this oil-rich state in the face of its rapid decline in reserves was "the protection of the unquestionable gains" made over the last decade. The structure of domestic production must be altered, he stated, so "we may continue to enjoy high levels of employment and earn valuable foreign exchange through exports."

The prime minister also pointed to the need to ensure that the country's credibility in the international financial markets is maintained "since we are likely to rely more heavily on these markets as a source of funding in future years."

He called on Trinidadians to moderate their expectations and contain their consumption so that the country might generate additional savings to be used for "more productive investments."

MINISTRY DEVALUES CURRENCY, ISSUES STATEMENT

FL111617 Georgetown CANA in English 1329 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 11 (CANA) -- Guyana last night announced a 25 percent devaluation of its currency effective today. A statement from the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance said the "adjustment is tied to a basket of currencies... the pound sterling, the Deutsche mark, the Japanese yen, the French franc, and the Netherland's guilder."

"This is the first time that an adjustment is being made on the basis of the basket of currencies mechanism since the Guyana dollar was fixed at the level of three dollars (G) to one U.S. dollar. The new rate, as expressed in terms of the U.S. dollar, which continues to be the intervention currency, is three dollars and seventy-five cents (G) to one dollar (U.S.)," the statement said.

Explaining the background of the move, the ministry said since 1981, the U.S. dollar had strengthened continually against all other major trading currencies, and as a result, the Guyana dollar had automatically appreciated, a situation not justified by this country's external trading position. Citing an example, the Ministry of Finance and Planning said that with respect to the pound sterling, in June 1981 Guyana received about six dollars and twelve cents (G) for each pound, and up to yesterday, the rate was four dollars and twenty cents (G).

"This circumstance has forced the consideration of the need to stabilise the value of the Guyana dollar at about its June 2, 1981 level. The rate change now announced will result in Guyana receiving approximately five dollars and twenty-five cents (G) for every pound," the ministry said. It also said the government will use the basket mechanism to monitor movements in the external value of the Guyana dollar. Any decision, it said, to adjust the Guyana currency against the U.S. dollar will be informed by the prevailing value of the basket.

The ministry said discussions on the implications of this new system are to be held shortly with the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the workers' representatives, and the business sector.

Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has informed other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states of the decision.

WPO ASKS JAMAICA TO RELEASE CWP LEADER

FL101837 Bridgetown CANA in English 1740 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 10 (CANA) -- The Women's Progressive Organisation (WPO), an arm of Guyana's Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), has called on the Jamaica Government to release the leader of the Committee of Women of Progress (CWP) there, Lynnette Vassell, who it said was held since December 20 "on trumped-up charges of robbery and conspiracy to rob." The WPO said Vassell has also been denied bail and allowed only twice-weekly visitors of one hour's duration.

The organisation described Vassell as "an outstanding defender of women's rights" who has won respect among her people as a "fighter against all forms of injustice, particularly in the area of consumers' rights."

"The WPO warns that the arrest and detention of Vassell is part of a sinister move to smash militant mass organizations, such as the CWP, and thus subvert the people's right to protest incursions on their rights," the organization said. It called on women's organizations in the Caribbean to join in protesting the action by the Seaga government.

CUBAN EPIDEMIOLOGIST TO ASSIST AUTHORITIES

FL112150 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 11 (CANA) -- A Cuban epidemiologist, Rafael Figueredo, is now in Guyana assisting local health authorities prepare a programme for the eradication of the disease-carrying aedes aegypti mosquito. The mosquito carries yellow fever and the dengue fever.

The Ministry of Health here said Doctor Figueredo is considered an expert in this field, having worked on a massive program in Cuba a few years ago when that country was struck by a dengue fever epidemic.

The Cuban consultant will work along with local epidemiologist Doctor Edgar London of the health ministry and will spend two weeks here. The ministry said Doctor Figueredo has advised that much emphasis be placed on preventive approaches to the problem, bearing in mind the tremendous cost Cuba had to bear to control its own dengue fever epidemic.

An official of the ministry said the services of the Cuban consultant have been made possible under a joint agreement on technical and economic co-operation between the two countries. Guyana and Cuba established diplomatic relations in 1972.

GUYMINE REPORTS DROP IN 1983 BAUXITE EXPORTS

FL091347 Bridgetown CANA in English 2357 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 7 (CANA) -- 1983 exports by Guyana's vital bauxite industry, the number one foreign exchange earner here, totalled 1.1 million tonnes, a decline of over 25 percent compared with 1982, the Guyana Mining Enterprise (Guymine) said today.

The state-owned enterprise, which has been losing money for the past seven years, is expected to record a loss of about 131 million dollars (one Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.), for 1983.

From an after-tax profit of 51 million dollars in 1976 the industry slumped to a loss of 153 million dollars in 1982 when it exported 1,499,000 tonnes of bauxite. Last year exports totalled 1,120,369 tonnes, valued at approximately 250 million dollars, and caused the industry to incur losses totalling 131 million dollars. The 1982 losses of 153 million dollars were incurred despite the fact that the industry earned 313 million dollars from sales.

The decline in exports amounted to 378,631 tonnes or 25.3 percent less than the 1982 figure. Total production for 1983 was 1,061,357 tonnes, about half a million tonnes less than the 1982 figure.

The industry will announce targets for 1984 next week.

TROOPS STATIONED TO GUARD ALUMINUM, POWER PLANTS

FL111850 Bridgetown CANA in English 1735 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 11, CANA -- Soldiers today took up positions at the Suriname Aluminium Company (SURALCO) where workers have been on strike since last month, as the military authorities continued talks with various national organisations on the formation of a new civilian government.

The official Suriname News Agency (SNA) said a decachment of about 100 soldiers were stationed at SURALCO's Paranam plant where it reported yesterday that a group of about 150 workers were preventing other staffers from returning to their jobs.

But today even though "a substantial part" of the American-owned company's 3,000 strong labour force were inside the complex, work had not yet resumed, a SURALCO spokesman said.

He said the workers did not say why they were not back on the job and complained that the company's equipment was deteriorating more and more every day because of inactivity.

The bauxite workers walked off their jobs last December 19 to protest recent price and income tax.

The military leadership rolled back the hikes and secured the resignation of the civilian government, headed by Prime Minister Errol Alibux, last weekend in moves to end the industrial unrest that is now in its third week.

Bauxite accounts for about 80 percent of Suriname's foreign exchange earnings, and contributes 30 percent to the country's Gross National Product (GNP).

SNA said several parts of the country were plunged into darkness last night because of what it said was a sabotage of a transformer at the Paranam electricity plant which serves the capital.

But the central power station here, where troops have also been posted as a precautionary measure, was working normally.

Electricity workers have also been taking industrial action recently, knocking some essential services out of action.

Army Commander Lt Col Desi Bouterse said the soldiers have been dispatched to the power company to ensure that electricity supplies to the country are not further disrupted.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JORGE TO ATTEND QUITO MEETING DESPITE COUP THREAT

FL111331 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] A spokesman in Santo Domingo says Dominican Republic President Salvador Jorge Blanco will not cancel a planned trip to Ecuador today despite warnings by close personal friends that plans are under way to stage a coup against him. (Benecio Castillo), one of the Dominican Republic's most prominent lawyers, told President Jorge Blanco that there is a plot, headed by members of the national Congress, to depose the president, who has cut imports and imposed new taxes to deal with the nation's economic problems. Mr Jorge Blanco will travel to Ecuador today to attend a 3-day regional economic summit in Quito to discuss the foreign debt of Latin American countries.

URUGUAY

GOVERNMENT APPROVES UTILITY RATE, SALARY HIKES

PY120131 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] General Pedro Aranco, planning and coordination secretary, tonight announced at Government House that the government has approved a 25- to 32-percent increase in public utility rates; an 11-percent minimum salary increase; a 12-percent overall government workers' salary increase; and a 12-percent increase in retirement payments. The increase in retirement payments is retroactive to 1 January and is an advance to readjustments due in April. Government and provincially owned utility companies will increase their rates retroactive to 1 Janaury.

PUBLICATION OF CENSORED WEEKLIES AUTHORIZED

PY120142 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The government has authorized the sale of several previously censored publications. Full editions of the weeklies AQUI, BUSQUEDA, and EL DEBATE have been approved. The publication of the weekly CONVICCION, which will have a limited edition of 15,000 issues, will also go on sale tomorrow. The weeklies OPINAR and CORREO DE LOS VIERNES will surely be published either tomorrow or Saturday.

VENEZUELA

CULTURE, INVESTMENT FUND MINISTERS APPOINTED

PA112220 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Report by Andres Salazar]

[Text] President-elect Jaime Lusinchi has officially announced the appointment of Ignacio Iribarren Borges to the Culture Ministry and Carlos Rafael Silva as Minister of State for President of the Investment Fund. Dr Jaime Lusinchi made this announcement from the (?La Vineta) residence, where he is meeting with Langhorne Motley, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. It is believed that Simon Antoni Pavan and (Ediberto Moreno) will be appointed as ministers of justice and labor.